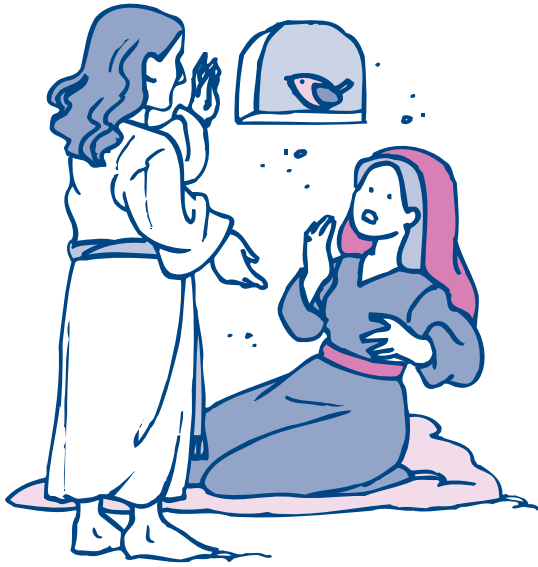


## LESSON 1

# Mary Hears Good News



## TEACHER'S DEVOTIONAL

The promise of a coming Messiah wove a bright thread of hope throughout the fabric of Israel's long history. Throughout thousands of years, the expectation of the Messiah, the anointed one, was sometimes submerged as Israel worshiped false gods or focused on their own system of laws. But the hope was never abandoned; it shone brightest in times of great difficulty. This hope caused people to do extraordinary things and to joyfully suffer astounding troubles.

Unlike the prophets of old, we are not only privileged to know about the fulfillment of this promise, but we have also experienced Him. We have been sought out in love by the Messiah, in whom dwells all the fullness of God! The deliverer has extended His promise of freedom, originally given to Israel, to each of us. The fulfillment of this promise is so deep, this love is so lavish, that it's beyond us to fully understand. But we can share the joy and excitement of the reality of Jesus with the children in our classes. Read 1 John 4:7-12 and realize once again that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise! Lead your children in celebrating and thanking God as the celebration of this season begins.

## Get Ready to Teach

### WHO?

Mary, angel, Mary's cousin Elizabeth

### WHAT?

God sent an angel to tell Mary that His Son, Jesus, would be born (Luke 1:26-56)

### WHEN & WHERE?

In the city of Nazareth when Herod the Great ruled Palestine

### WHY?

To help children thank God for His promise to send His Son, Jesus

### BIBLE VERSE

"God loved us and sent his Son." (See 1 John 4:10.)

### GOALS

During each segment of this session, help each child to

1. ANSWER a question to tell who talked to Mary
2. TELL that Mary was glad to hear God's promise to send Jesus
3. THANK God for His promise to send Jesus

## TIP OF THE WEEK

The lesson overview on the second page of each lesson is a key ingredient in helping you teach successfully. Prepare for each session by reading this overview, choosing which Bible Learning Activities you and other teachers or helpers will lead and collecting the required materials. Then, when you arrive at your classroom before the session actually begins, you can quickly arrange the room and the materials to create an effective learning environment.

**LESSON 1**

**ACTIVITY AND AIM**

**MATERIALS**

**CHOOSE ONE OR MORE OF THESE OPTIONS:**



**30-35 MINUTES**

Teachers guide small groups of children in one or more activities.



**10-15 MINUTES**

One teacher leads this large group time.



**5-10 MINUTES**

Teachers guide small groups of children to complete *Activity Pages*.

**ART CENTER** .....> Bible, dark-colored construction paper, candle, white chalk  
Color papers to find hidden angels and talk about God's promise to send Jesus

**MUSIC CENTER** .....> Bible, *Shake It Up!* cassette/CD and player, red and green construction paper, tape, stickers  
Make and play rhythm sticks and thank God for keeping His promise to send Jesus

**DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER** .....> Bible, Poster 1 from *Visual Resources*, table, a variety of Christmas decorations  
Arrange Christmas decorations and talk about God's promise to send Jesus

**NATURE CENTER** .....> Bible, play dough, small pine branches, pinecones  
Make dough impressions and talk about things that remind them of God's promise to send Jesus

**COME TOGETHER** .....> None  
Sing and do motions for a fun song

**BIBLE VERSE** .....> Bible  
Clap hands while listening to 1 John 4:10.

**PRAYER** .....> None  
Thank God for His promise to send Jesus

**SONG** .....> *Shake It Up!* songbook and cassette/CD and player  
Sing "Good News," which tells about the good news of God's promise

**BIBLE STORY** .....> Bible, Figures 1-4 from *Visual Resources*, unbreakable angel ornament or figurine, flannel board  
Listen to find out the special promise that an angel told Mary

**ACTIVITY PAGE** .....> Bible, Lesson 1 *Activity Page* and stickers for yourself and each child, crayons or markers  
Fold a page to retell the Bible story and talk about God's promise to send Jesus

**Enrichment Activities (see last page of this lesson) can be used at any time during this session: when children need a change of pace, to extend the session to 75 minutes, or during transition time at the beginning or end of the session.**