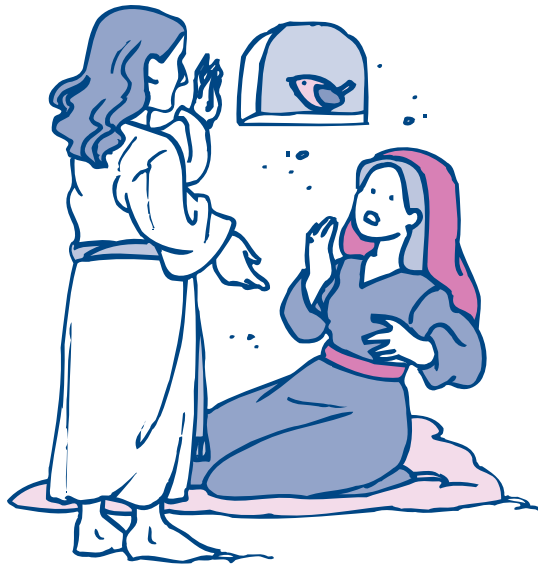


## LESSON 1

# 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, Joseph

### WHAT?

God sent an angel to tell Mary and Joseph that God's Son, Jesus, would be born (Matthew 1:18-25; 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. TELL that God sent an angel to tell good news to Mary and Joseph
2. REPEAT God's promise to send His Son, Jesus, to be born
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**



**20-30 MINUTES**

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



**10-15 MINUTES**

One teacher leads this large group time.



**15 MINUTES**

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

**ACTIVITY AND AIM**

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

**ART CENTER**

Arrange construction paper shapes on paper plates to make faces of characters in the Bible story

**GAME CENTER**

Play a musical walking game and tell the angel's message

**MUSIC CENTER**

Make drums and play them while repeating the words of 1 John 4:10

**NATURE CENTER**

Use seasonal nature items or pasta shapes to form the name "Jesus" and thank God for His promise to send Jesus

**COME TOGETHER**

Play I Spy to identify colors and objects in the poster and talk about God's promise to send Jesus

**BIBLE VERSE**

Say 1 John 4:10, clapping as each word is said

**PRAYER**

Thank God for His promise to send Jesus

**SONG**

Sing "Good News" and talk about the good news told by the angel

**BIBLE STORY**

Listen to find out the special promise that an angel told

**ACTIVITY PAGE**

Fold page to retell the Bible story and thank God for His promise to send Jesus

**MATERIALS**

Bible, construction paper in a variety of colors, scissors, paper plates, glue

Bible, *Shake It Up!* cassette/CD and player

Bible, an empty tin can or oatmeal container for each child, stickers, paper squares cut 2 inches (5 cm) larger than the tops of cans or containers, rubber bands

Bible, paper plates, marker seasonal nature items or pasta shapes, glue

Poster 3 from *Visual Resources*

Bible

None

*Shake It Up!* songbook and cassette/CD and player

Bible, Figures 1-5 from *Visual Resources*, angel ornament or figurine, flannel board

Bible, Lesson 1 *Activity Page* and stickers for yourself and each child, crayons or markers

**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.**