

LESSON 1

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

LUKE 1:26-38



BIBLE TRUTH

THE BABY TO BE BORN TO MARY WOULD BE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 79)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 1—one copy for each child; markers or crayons

Mary’s Visit with Elizabeth

SUPPLIES: Bible, preferably ESV; index card with Luke 1:42–45 written on it

An Old Prophecy Fulfilled

SUPPLIES: special snack

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn about how God sent an angel to Mary to announce the Savior's birth.

Ask if anyone can tell you the special name we give to the day we celebrate Jesus' birthday. (Give the children clues until they get the answer: Christmas.)

To draw the children into the lesson, ask some more questions about Christmas:

- **What kinds of things do we do to make Christmas special?**
(Talk about the various traditions that we have both secular and sacred.)
- **Who can tell me the Christmas story or parts of it?**
(Draw out the children by asking questions like, Did Mary and Joseph have a place to stay for the night or did they have to sleep somewhere else?)
- **Does anyone know a Christmas song about Jesus?**
(If a child knows a song, allow them to sing it. If no one knows a song, move on to sing "Silent Night" and "Away in a Manger." Then take time to talk about what part of the Christmas story the songs tell about.)

Silent Night

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Take time to pray and thank God for sending his Son, Jesus. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read story 79, “The Birth of Jesus Foretold,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION **5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **Who came to Mary and what did he say?**
(The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that the Holy Spirit would give her a child who would be the Son of God.)

- **How did Mary answer the angel?**
(She said that she was God’s servant and that the Lord could use her to carry the child.)

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today’s Bible story fit into God’s greater plan of redemption?

When Mary saw Elizabeth with child, she realized that what the angel Gabriel had told her was true. Then she heard Elizabeth’s prophetic blessing. Filled with wonder and joy, she worshiped God with a song.

Mary was a sinner just like us. She needed a Savior (Luke 1:47) and she knew that God’s promise was going to be fulfilled with the birth of the baby inside her. She knew that God’s plan of salvation would somehow include her son. Her words are a song of praise to God for his incredible promise to Abraham and his descendants. The fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham was going to come through Jesus. But Mary could not have understood that her son would be sacrificed on the cross in order to fulfill that promise. It is through Jesus that people from every nation would be blessed.

■ **What else did the angel tell Mary?**

(The angel told her that her relative Elizabeth, who was very old, was going to give birth to a child. This was an amazing work of God because Elizabeth was too old to have children.)

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

■ **From this story, how do we know that God is all-powerful?**

(God sent an angel to Mary to tell of things that had not yet happened. The Bible calls this prophecy. Also, God was able to heal Elizabeth of her barrenness and give her a child.)

■ **What do we learn about Mary from this story?**

(Mary is engaged to Joseph and is soon to be married. Mary is favored by the Lord and the Lord is with her. Mary is willing to do whatever God asks her to do. God gives Mary the ability to be used by him in this special way.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5-10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) **20-30 MIN**

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 1—one copy for each child
- ✓ crayons or markers

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

■ **Where is the angel in the picture?**

(Help the children point out the angel.)

■ **Why do you think Mary was a bit afraid when the angel first appeared?**

(Angels just don't appear every day in our lives. How do you think you would react if an angel popped into our classroom right now?)

■ **What did the Angel tell Mary?**

(The angel told Mary she was going to have a very special baby she would give the name Jesus.)

■ **God asked Mary to be the mother of Jesus and she said "yes."
What is God calling us to do?**

(God is calling all of us to believe and trust in Jesus. Though Jesus came as a baby, he grew up to be the Savior of the world and died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. God calls all of us to believe.)

Mary's Visit with Elizabeth

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bible, preferably ESV
- ✓ index card

Before class, print Luke 1:42–45 on the index card.

In class, read Luke 1:39–45. To help the children comprehend some of the amazing points of the story recruit teenage volunteers to act out the scene. Give "Elizabeth" the index card with her response from Luke 1:42–45. Use your Bible to help narrate.

STORY POINTS	HOW TO HELP CHILDREN REMEMBER
Elizabeth knew about Mary's baby before Mary told her!	Have them all point their index finger to their head.
The baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy at the sound of Mary's voice.	Have them jump once in place.
Elizabeth knew it was the Lord at work in Mary's life and that the child would be her Lord.	Have them lift their hands in a posture of worship to God.

Once you've led the class through each action, perform them one by one and see if the children can remember what your actions represent. Keep reminding them until they remember them all. Then switch and speak them out randomly and have the children do the corresponding action.

An Old Prophecy Fulfilled

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ special snack

Early in the class ask the children if they know what you are going to do later. Keep asking this as you go through this exercise. The point is to help them see that they can't predict what you are going to do, even ten minutes into the future. But God said through Isaiah, hundreds of years before it happened, that Jesus was going to be born.

Read Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Tell the children that Immanuel means "God with us." Then have them repeat it back to you. Several times throughout the class, ask them to tell you what Immanuel means, or to tell you the name God gave Jesus that means God with us. Explain that Isaiah wrote these words more than six hundred years before Jesus was born! Tell them how this points to God's sovereign control over all things and how it shows us that Jesus' birth was God's plan for our salvation all along.

Give the class one more chance to tell you what you are going to do. Then, when they have guessed again, pass out the special snack. Talk about how amazing it is that Isaiah knew that Jesus would be born six hundred years before it happened.

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

LESSON 1 - THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

