

March 8, 2020
Large Group



Mary Praised God

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 1:26-56

MAIN POINT: God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 1:15

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Leader BIBLE STUDY

God's people had not heard a clear message from God for hundreds of years. Then one day, Gabriel—an angel of the Lord—told a man that his wife, Elizabeth, was going to have a baby. The baby's name would be John. Then the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would have a baby, and her baby would be God's Son.

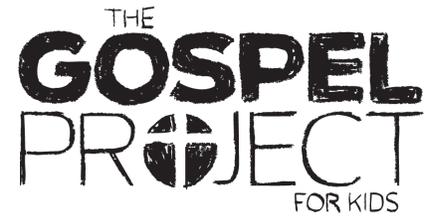
Mary and Elizabeth were relatives. Elizabeth was old and barren; she and her husband, Zechariah, had no children. Mary was a young girl—likely in her early teens. She was a virgin, engaged to be married to Joseph. The announcements of these pregnancies were miraculous for both women. Both babies had been foretold by the prophet Isaiah—John in Isaiah 40:3 and Jesus in Isaiah 7:14.

The angel Gabriel told Mary that Elizabeth was pregnant too, and Mary hurried to see her. The journey would not have been easy. Mary traveled nearly one hundred miles to see Elizabeth, and her arrival brought great joy to both Elizabeth and Elizabeth's unborn baby. In the presence of the unborn Messiah, John leaped in Elizabeth's womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she said, "Mary, you are blessed!"

The story of Mary's visit with Elizabeth gives us a remarkable picture of women living by faith. Being a young, unwed pregnant woman could have caused Mary to worry. Instead, her response is marked by her trust in God. Mary's song reflects her knowledge of God's Word and her understanding of who God is.

Mary worshiped God because the coming of the promised Savior was good news! As you teach, remind kids that people had been waiting hundreds of years for the Messiah.

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Being the mother of Jesus would be no small task, but Mary trusted that God was in charge.

***Christ Connection:** Mary was willing to follow God's plan, even though being Jesus' mother would not be easy. Mary wanted to bring praise to God. Likewise, Jesus brought praise to His Father by willingly dying on the cross to save people from sin.*

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Introduce the session (3 minutes)

LEADER • Have any of you ever received news of a coming baby? [*Allow responses.*] How did it make you feel? [*Allow responses.*] Interesting!

Well, today our story is about a different baby being announced. All babies are gifts from God, but this particular baby was the best gift from God ever. His mommy could hardly believe it when she heard He would be coming. His name would be Jesus.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • That's right. Today's story is about Mary and the time she heard she would be the mother of Jesus, God's Son! She knew that Jesus was not going to be like any other baby. Listen closely for more evidence of our big picture question and answer.

SLIDE - *What makes Jesus different?*

SLIDE - *Jesus is fully God and fully man.*

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Point to the giant timeline and point out today's Bible story.

LEADER •

SLIDE - Much of the Old Testament is about God's people—the Israelites. The people faced a big problem; their sin separated them from God. But God had a plan to bring His people back to Himself.

SLIDE - He spoke through the prophets and promised to send a Messiah. The people weren't exactly sure how God would keep His promise, but they trusted Him. In the New Testament, we see how God kept His promise.

SLIDE - Today we will hear what an angel said about how God was going to bring the Messiah into the world.

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Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 1:26-56.

Show the Bible story **VIDEO** “Mary Praised God.”

LEADER • My goodness! God’s people had waited and waited for God to send the promised Messiah. The last time the people had heard any new messages from God was about 400 years earlier, when the prophet Malachi said God would send a messenger to prepare the way for the Messiah. It is possible some people lost hope of ever hearing from God again.

Then an angel spoke to a young woman named Mary! He told her that she would have a baby. And not just any baby, but God’s Son! The angel also told her that her cousin Elizabeth was pregnant with a baby boy too! Elizabeth’s baby would be the messenger who prepared the way for Jesus!

Mary wasn’t married yet, so having a baby seemed impossible. Nothing is impossible for God though. Mary might have felt a little bit scared, but she said to the angel, “May everything happen just as you have said.” **God chose Mary to be Jesus’ mother.**

Mary went to Elizabeth’s house to tell her the wonderful news. She saw that Elizabeth was pregnant and knew the angel had told the truth. Elizabeth’s son even leapt for joy inside her belly when Mary arrived with Jesus in her womb. Mary praised God. She knew that He was keeping His promise to His people. Her Son would be the Savior of the whole world.

Christ connection

LEADER • The angel Gabriel brought Mary wonderful news from God about His promised Rescuer; however, this news was shocking and difficult too. Mary was not yet married. Many people would not believe that her baby was from God. Even though this would have been a scary time for Mary, she wanted to do God's plan and praised Him for using her.

Mary's Son obeyed God's plan perfectly, even when He grew up and God's plan was difficult and scary. Jesus praised God and died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin. Then, on the third day, He rose again, conquering sin! When we believe in Him, we are saved from sin and given new life with God forever.

Trusting in Jesus and following Him is not easy. But when we trust and obey Him, we glorify God with our lives and show the world how wonderful He is.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage **SLIDE**. Lead boys and girls to read together 1 Timothy 1:15.

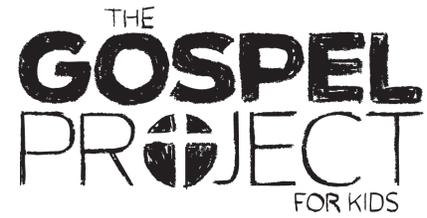
Ask the following questions:

1. Is 1 Timothy in the Old or New Testament? (New Testament)
2. Who wrote these words to Timothy? (Paul)
3. Why did God send His Son into the world? (to save people from sin)

LEADER • Try to memorize our key passage this week. Memorizing God's Word helps us remember what is true. Let's sing.

Lead boys and girls to **SING** "This Saying."

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Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • Father, thank You for sending Jesus. Thank You for Mary's humble obedience to Your will. We know that following You is not easy. Help us to trust You and obey You as Mary and Jesus obeyed even in difficult times.

Dismiss to small groups...