



Session 2



AN ANGEL VISITED MARY AND JOSEPH

Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-24

Six months after the angel Gabriel visited Zechariah, Gabriel paid another visit to a young woman, Mary, in the town of Nazareth. Nazareth was a small town and, according to other parts of Scripture, had a reputation for no good thing coming from it. Mary was engaged, an arrangement that was legally binding at that time, to a man named Joseph.

Gabriel appeared to Mary with a greeting that completely confused Mary. As Gabriel had done with Zechariah, the angel told Mary not to fear. The next message Gabriel delivered to Mary was significantly more confusing for her. Hearing that she would become pregnant and give birth to a son, Mary wanted to know how that could be possible since she was not yet married and had never known a man intimately. The angel told Mary that the child would grow inside of her through the power of the Holy Spirit and the child would be known as the Son of God. Though Mary was confused by the angel and his message, Mary submitted herself to the will of God.

After hearing the message from the angel, Mary visited Elizabeth. When Mary approached, the baby in Elizabeth's womb jumped for joy. It was unquestionable that the child Mary was carrying was special. Mary praised God for His goodness to her and for the future salvation of the world that would come through the child yet to be born.

Meanwhile, Joseph had discovered that Mary was pregnant. As a righteous man, Joseph decided to quietly divorce Mary so she would not be shamed. While he slept, an angel came to visit with Joseph too. The message was similar to the one given to Mary, and Joseph's visitor instructed him to continue with the marriage because Mary had not been unfaithful to Joseph at all. The angel announced that the child was from the Holy Spirit and would be great. Joseph was instructed, as Mary had been, to name the baby Jesus. This name signified the salvation that Jesus would ultimately provide through His future sacrifice for the sin of the world. Joseph woke and did as the angel had instructed.

SESSION FOCUS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-24

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 4:12

BIBLE VERSE: Luke 1:30-31

TEXT TRUTH: God selected unexpected people to be a part of His plan to rescue us from our sin.

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Understand that Bible truths will last forever. Locate the two main parts of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament—and identify some books in each part.

BIBLE STUDY

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *Item 15: “Objects: Limestone Statues” (Printables)*
- Examine the Text:** *Item 4: “Text Truth 2” (Poster Pack), Bibles*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- Memory Verse:** *Item 1: “Acts 4:12” (Poster Pack)*
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

APPLY THE TRUTH

(20 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Review:** *Item 8: “Review Questions” (Printables), sticky notes, paper gift bags, strips of paper, marker*

ACTIVITIES

(20 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *Bible Timeline for Kids, Item 11: “Christ in Context: Isaiah, Matthew, Luke” (Printables), strips of paper, Bibles*
- Move:** *Item 4: “Text Truth 2” (Poster Pack)*
- Make:** *Item 25: “Mary and Joseph Ornament” (Printables), thin ribbon or string, scissors, colored pencils, hole punch, cardstock*
- Explore:** *Item 16: “White Family Photos” (Printables), green pom-poms in two different sizes, pieces of red and yellow felt or foam, googly eyes, green feathers, large craft sticks, craft glue, scissors*

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AN ANGEL VISITED MARY AND JOSEPH

Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-24

God had a plan—a plan to rescue His people from sin. God’s plan was to send Jesus, His Son, to earth. So, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth to see a woman named Mary. Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph.

The angel told Mary, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you.” But Mary was very upset and confused. The angel continued, “Do not be afraid. God is pleased with you. You will give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be great. He will be the Son of the Most High, and the Lord will give Him the throne of David forever.”

The angel explained, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. Think about this: your cousin Elizabeth is having a baby even though everyone thought she could not. For nothing is impossible with God.”

Later, Mary praised God. “My soul praises the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and His name is holy. He has helped His servant Israel, remembering His mercy to Abraham and His descendants forever, just as He spoke to our ancestors.”

God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus. And God had a plan for Jesus’ earthly father too. Joseph was a righteous man. When Joseph heard Mary was pregnant, he planned to divorce her secretly. But God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph, “Do not be afraid to marry Mary. Mary will have a son. The baby is from the Holy Spirit. You are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

God was fulfilling a prophecy He had made long ago through the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah promised that a woman would have a son and name Him Immanuel. Immanuel means “God is with us.”

God chose Mary and Joseph to be the earthly parents of Jesus. God chose to work through unexpected people to redeem us from our sin through His Son, Jesus.

CHRIST IN CONTEXT:

The book of Luke gives a detailed description of the life of Jesus. Jesus was described as the Son of Man who came to save all people—Jews and Gentiles. Because Jesus was fully human, He was tempted and suffered like we do. Luke showed that Jesus cares for people and can understand when we face hard times.

PRONUNCIATIONS:

Nazareth (NAZ uh reth)
Gabriel (GAY brih el)
Immanuel (ih MAN yoo el)

TOOLS:

- Jump In: Item 15: "Objects: Limestone Statues" (Printables)
- Examine the Text: Item 4: "Text Truth 2" (Poster Pack), Bibles
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: Item 1: "Acts 4:12" (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

Need an Opening Activity? Choose one of the activities in the *Activities* section and adapt it to introduce the session.

JUMP IN

- Ask: "If an angel appeared right now, what would you say to them? How would you feel? Would you be scared or excited?" (*Allow kids to respond.*)
- Say: "When an angel appeared to someone in the Bible, most of the time it was unexpected, and the person was afraid."
- Explain that angels are created beings whose only job is to serve and worship God. In Bible times, angels spoke messages from God to people.
- Display the "Limestone Statues."
- Say: "This is a statue of the angel Gabriel and another person."
- Ask: "Does anyone know who the other person is?" (*Mary*)
- Say: "Last week, we learned about Gabriel visiting Zechariah. Gabriel told Zechariah that he was going to have a son named John and that John would have a special job. Today, we're going to learn about two more people who were visited by an angel—Mary and her soon-to-be husband, Joseph."

EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Guide kids to open their Bibles to Luke 1.
- Say: "We learn of Gabriel's visit with Mary in Luke 1. We learn about Joseph's visit from an angel in Matthew 1."
- Explain that both books, Matthew and Luke, are Gospels. They are in the division of the New Testament that tells the good news of God's kingdom established by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- Say: "An angel brought good news to Mary and Joseph, but it was news they weren't expecting. Something was about to happen that would change their lives forever."
- Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the Bible story page as a guide.
- Ask: "Does anyone remember what news an angel gave Mary and Joseph?" (*Mary was going to have a son. They were to name Him Jesus. He would save His people from their sins.*)
- Explain that Mary and Joseph had a plan to get married. They were not expecting an angel to tell them that God had a different plan for them. Yes, they would still get married, but they were also going to be parents. Mary would be Jesus' mother, and Joseph would be Jesus' earthly father.
- Say: "After being told this news, Mary later praised God."
- Ask: "Does anyone remember what she said?"
- Say: "Let's read Luke 1:46-55."
- Read Luke 1:46-55.

- Say: “Mary rejoiced and praised God because of God’s greatness. God had remembered His promise to Abraham and his descendants. Now, God was fulfilling that promise by sending Jesus.”
- Display the Text Truth.
- Say: **“God selected unexpected people to be a part of His plan to rescue us from our sin.”**
- Say: “Neither Joseph nor Mary were expecting God to use them in fulfilling His promise, but they obeyed God, knowing His plan was perfect and that it would save people from their sin.”

PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 2 video.
- Discuss: “Where did Joel visit? What do they do there? Why do they help the animals? Who needs to be rescued from sin? Name someone God selected to be a part of His plan to rescue us from sin.”

MEMORY VERSE

- Display the “Acts 4:12” poster.
- Practice saying the verse a few times until the group is familiar with it.
- Remind the group of today’s Text Truth.
- Direct the kids to stand along a wall, facing it. Choose one volunteer to stand away from the group where the rest of the kids can’t see him.
- Explain that the volunteer is going to rescue someone from the wall.
- Tell the kid to select one person from the group to rescue. In order to rescue them, though, they must say the Memory Verse. Once the kid has been rescued, both kids will go rescue another person each. This will continue with each new rescued kid rescuing another person.
- Continue playing until everyone has been rescued.
- Say: “Just like you had to be rescued from the wall, we all need to be rescued. Acts 4:12 reminds us that we need to be rescued from our sins, and the only One who can rescue us is Jesus.”
- Say: “We can tell others the truth of Jesus found in Acts 4:12. We can share God’s rescue plan to send Jesus and take away the sins of people.”

PRAYER

- Explain that Christmas is a great time to remember the love that God has for us and His desire to save us from our sins.
- Ask for a volunteer to pray and thank God for His love and His rescue plan.
- Give the kids the Family Cards and encourage them to tell their families about Mary and Joseph and their part in God’s plan to rescue us from our sin.

BIBLE VERSE OPTION:

The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse, Acts 4:12. If your kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to learn an additional weekly Bible Verse. This week’s Bible Verse is Luke 1:30-31.

APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: Item 8: "Review Questions" (Printables), sticky notes, paper gift bags, strips of paper, marker

EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today's pages.
- Invite a kid to read about the "Limestone Statues."
- Direct kids to complete the "Who's Who" activity to review today's Bible story. (*Answers: Gabriel, Mary, Gabriel, Mary, Gabriel, Joseph, Mary & Joseph*)
- Read the introduction and guide kids to examine the images of "A First-Century Nazareth."
- Choose a couple of volunteers to read the "Spotlight on Gabriel."
- Lead boys and girls to use the code to discover the "Missing Words."

REVIEW

- Make oversized name tags on sticky notes. Write an answer to a "Review Questions" on each tag. Stick the tags on a wall with the answers visible.*
- Write questions on strips of paper, one question per strip. Put each strip into its own paper gift bag. Set the paper bags on a table.*
- Form two teams.
- Ask: "Have you ever seen a gift that didn't have a name tag?"
- Say: "Well, I made a few gift bags and left off the name tags. I need your help to figure out which name tag goes with which bag."
- Tell the group that inside each bag is a question, but it doesn't have an answer with it.
- Explain that when you say "go," one player from each team will run to the table and grab a bag. Once they have the bag, they will bring it back to their team, open it, and read the question inside.
- After they have read the question, they should determine the answer together.
- Then, a different player should run to the wall and chose the name tag with the correct answer.
- Once they have the tag, they will run back to the group and stick the tag on the bag.
- Continue playing until all bags have been paired with their correct tags.
- The team with the most correct answers wins.
- Review the questions and answers.

ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.



SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

Tools: Bible Timeline for Kids, Item 11: “Christ in Context: Isaiah, Matthew, Luke” (Printables), strips of paper, Bibles

- Display the Bible Timeline for Kids and Christ in Context statements.
- Say: “Our story today came from the New Testament, but the prophecy that God made to the Israelites is found in the Old Testament.”
- Direct the group to open their Bibles to Matthew 1. Instruct the kids to place a strip of paper as a bookmark in Matthew and then turn to Luke 1.
- Guide the kids to place another strip of paper in Luke and then turn to Isaiah 7:14.
- Ask for a volunteer to find Isaiah on the timeline. Ask for another volunteer to locate Matthew and Luke on the timeline.
- Explain that the book of Isaiah was written between 800 and 700 BC, hundreds of years before the books of Matthew and Luke were written.
- Say: “God made a promise through the prophet Isaiah and chose to fulfill it many years later through Mary. God’s promise didn’t change. The words Isaiah spoke came true. **God selected unexpected people to be a part of His plan to rescue us from our sin.**”
- Direct the group to move back and forth between their bookmarks, getting comfortable with the Old and New Testament books.
- Review the Christ in Context statements for Isaiah, Matthew, and Luke, encouraging the group to look for similarities and differences between each book.



FROZEN CHOSEN

Tools: Item 4: “Text Truth 2” (Poster Pack)

- Display the Text Truth.
- Frozen Chosen is played the same way as Freeze Tag.
- Form two teams. Guide one team to sit on the ground, and the other team will stand.
- Remind kids of the Text Truth: **God selected unexpected people to be a part of His plan to rescue us from our sin.**
- Explain that God selected, or chose, Mary and Joseph as a part of His plan to rescue people from their sins. They were chosen to be Jesus’ earthly parents.
- Say: “Today you are going to help rescue your teammates from being frozen by the opposite team.”
- Tell the kids that when you say “go,” the team sitting on the ground (*Team A*) should stand up and begin to quickly move around the room. The other team (*Team B*) should begin to follow them and try to gently tag them.
- When a member of Team A is tagged, they are now “frozen” and need another teammate who is not frozen to come and “unfreeze” them.
- In order to unfreeze someone, the kid must tell their teammate today’s Text Truth. Explain that someone who is saying the Text Truth or listening to their teammate say the Text Truth is temporarily safe from being tagged.
- Continuing playing until all kids on Team A are frozen. (A timed game of five minutes could also be played if preferred.)
- If time permits, switch teams so that Team B is sitting and Team A is standing when the game begins.



TEXT TRUTH ORNAMENTS

Tools: Item 25: “Mary and Joseph Ornament” (Printables), thin ribbon or string, scissors, colored pencils, hole punch, cardstock

□ Copy the “Mary and Joseph Ornament” on cardstock and cut it out. Hole punch the top.

- Give each kid a “Mary and Joseph Ornament.”
- Remind them of the important job that Mary and Joseph were given by God.
- Tell the group that they are going to make an ornament to hang up to remind them that **God selected unexpected people to be a part of His plan to rescue us from our sin.**
- Say: “Before Mary and Joseph or Adam and Eve, God had a plan to rescue us from our sin. Jesus was always the plan.”
- Lead the group to color their ornaments. Kids may choose to write the Text Truth or a phrase from today’s Bible story on the back of their ornament.
- As they finish, help boys and girls tie a ribbon or string through the punched hole. Encourage the group to use their ornaments to tell their families about today’s Bible story and Text Truth.



QUETZAL BIRDS

Printables: Item 16: “White Family Photos” (Printables), green pom-poms in two different sizes, pieces of red and yellow felt or foam, googly eyes, green feathers, large craft sticks, craft glue, scissors

□ Optional: Provide online photos of resplendent quetzal birds.

- Distribute a larger pom-pom and a smaller one to each kid. Tell kids to glue the pom-poms together. The smaller pom-pom will be the head of the bird. Encourage kids to glue on a pair of googly eyes and a small triangle cut from the yellow felt or foam as a beak. Then lead kids to cut a piece of red felt or foam big enough to cover the front of the larger pom-pom as the front of the bird. Glue a green feather to the back of the bird. Complete the bird by gluing it to a craft stick.
- As kids work to make their resplendent quetzal birds, point out that these birds live in the highlands of Guatemala. They are the national bird of Guatemala and symbolize liberty. They appear on the Guatemalan flag, postage stamps, their money, and souvenirs for the country. The quetzals are considered one of the most beautiful birds on earth with their brilliant green outer color, red underparts, and long tail feathers that extend twice the length of the bird itself.
- As kids work on creating their quetzal birds, show the missionaries’ family photos and tell the kids that the White family (*David, Regina, Cruz, and Ben*) serve as missionaries in Antigua, Guatemala. They tell the Mayan people about Jesus, host church groups and individuals serving on short-term mission assignments, and work with Guatemalan Christians to help them share the gospel.
- Ask the boys and girls to take their quetzal birds home and display them in a place that will remind them to pray for Guatemala and the missionaries who live there.