

WEEK 1

The Woman Who Believed God

The Story of An Angel's Visit to Mary

Week's Objective:

To see how Mary was reassured in God's promise and plan for her life. She trusted in God's call to give birth to Jesus in spite of fear or worry. Let's remember that God wants us to **Be Reassured!**

Prayer as you Prepare:

Father, thank You for being a God whom we can always trust and depend on. I feel so reassured whenever I have fears or worries every time I look up to You and remember Your will. Help me surrender my plans to Your plans. Help my students to feel reassured that You are our God who keeps promises and will never leave them. Amen.

IN THE CLASSROOM...

COLORING PAGE: Picture of Gabriel greeting Mary and extra activity on the back

Hear It:

OBJECT LESSON: ANGEL

*"See It" page of this week's lesson and crayons

[LEADER SAY]: I want you to go to the "See It" part of your lesson and draw a picture of what you think an angel looks like. Of course, everyone's angel may look a little different, and that is okay. Take five minutes to draw an angel.

Give your students time to work on their drawings.

[LEADER SAY]: Wow! Look at all of the different angels! Today, I want to share with you a Bible story about a young girl who was visited by an angel. Maybe the angel looked like one of your drawings. Well, let's listen to the Bible story to hear about what the angel shared with the young girl.

STORY SUPPORT: ANGEL LIGHT

*"See it" angel drawings and flashlight.

Display your students' drawings all around the classroom (put them on the tables or lean them against the walls) and tell the Bible story. Every time the angel speaks, shine a flashlight on your students' angel drawings to emphasize the bright light that Mary saw.

Find It:

1. Where did Mary live?
Nazareth
2. What was the angel's name who came to visit Mary?
Gabriel
3. What did the angel say to Mary?
She was going to have a baby – the Son of God.
4. What was Mary supposed to name her baby?
Jesus
5. How do you think Mary felt after the angel visited her?
Answers will vary, but will probably include feeling scared, happy, excited, nervous and confused.
6. What did Mary do immediately after Gabriel visited her?
She packed her things and went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth.
7. What was special about Mary's cousin Elizabeth?
She was going to have a baby too.
8. What did Mary and Elizabeth do when they saw each other?
They praised God and sang songs to Him.
9. What did Elizabeth's baby do when Mary arrived?
The baby kicked inside her.
10. What would you have done if you were Mary?
Answers will vary. Some possible answers would be cry, be scared, pray hard to God or rejoice.

Say It:

Luke 1:37 – "Nothing is impossible with God."

See It:

Today, we will incorporate the activity page into the Bible story as an object lesson and story support. We cannot wait to see the beautiful angels that your 1st graders draw.

Be It:

[LEADER SAY]: Our Bible story this week reminds us that God wants us to be reassured. What does it mean to be "reassured?"

To be "reassured" means that we trust God, even when we are scared, unsure or puzzled. We are free from worry and can feel confident that God will be there for us. God wants us to come to Him for everything and to feel reassured in Him even when things might not make sense. Know that God will always be with us, so we do not have to be afraid. God is so happy when we are reassured in our faith in Him.

CHALLENGE: REASSURED

[LEADER SAY]: This week, your "Be it Challenge" is to show God and others how you are reassured in His love and plans. When you are scared or confused this week, I want you to say this little poem to remember to be reassured that God is with You always.

"I'm reassured that God wants what's best for me

So I will trust in Him because faith is the key."

Good luck with your challenge! Do not forget that I want to know if you completed your challenge next week.

Show It:

The double hand motions remind us that we can rest assured or be reassured in God and His promises.

ACTIVITY: FOLLOW THE ANGEL

Objective – To show your students that God does not always show us His plans or why things happen in our lives. Just as your students will have to "blindly" trust and follow the "angel," God asks us to trust and follow Him by faith. In the end, feel reassured.

Materials – Blindfolds and angel costume

[LEADER SAY]: I will play the angel. I am going to walk around the classroom and your mission is to follow me and do whatever I do.

Now have your students and other leaders line up behind you. Begin leading them around the classroom. Lead them around for about three minutes. Add in different actions (i.e. jump, clap and turn around) to make sure they are fully following you.

[LEADER SAY]: That was fun and easy, but let's make the game a little more interesting. Sometimes when we follow God and we do not know the plans He has for us, it can be a little scary. We are going to put on blindfolds and hold onto the hand of the person in front of us and behind us. I am going to lead you around the classroom and you have to trust me.

Now have your students and other leaders line up behind you again with their blindfolds on. Make sure they are holding each other's hands and slowly start leading your small group. Play for about four minutes. When done, move to the story time rug for discussion.

Discussion –

1. Was it easier to follow me the first time or the second time? Why was it easier?
2. How did the activity show us this week's character trait – Be Reassured?

FOLLOW-UP:

Would you rather have an angel come and give you a special message or be the angel that gives special messages?