

STORY

Announcing a Miracle Child - Luke 1:26-56, Matthew 1:18-25

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Father in heaven, the truths I am about to present with this lesson are doubted and attacked so mightily today, yet they are so important in assuring Your children that Jesus is indeed their Savior. Bless me, Your servant, as I carry Your Word to those in my care. May the students' faith in Your amazing power and love be strengthened and move them to praise You with faith, word, and deeds, now and into eternity. Amen

VOCABULARY

Galilee - The northern province of Israel during Roman occupation, with King Herod allowed to rule.

Nazareth - means "verdant" or "offshoot" and brings to mind the prophecy in Isaiah 11:1 that Jesus would come from the stem or shoot of the tribe of Jesse (cf. Matthew 2:23).

Betrothed - pledged to be married, the commitment had already been made to be husband and wife." *found with child*" - she was pregnant.

public example - charge her with adultery and refuse to marry her.

Jesus - the name literally means "Savior".

Immanuel - literally it means "God with us", a testimony that Mary's Son would be God in human flesh.

OUTER AIM

God announces the miracle of Jesus' birth.

INNER AIM

Believers show faith in the miracle within Jesus' birth.

BACKGROUND

(*Rupprecht Bible History References Vol. 2, pp. 11-16*)

When everything was ready, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman (Gal. 4:4). (The study of how human history converged to make this the right moment is beyond the scope of this lesson.) Jesus' forerunner, John, was on his way. So God sent His angel to a humble virgin (unmarried girl) of the tribe of David. (cf. Isaiah. 7:14 "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son..."). Various events emphasize how the birth of Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies and reveal that Jesus was the promised Messiah and Savior.

Below are notes on each verse of the account:

Luke 1:26

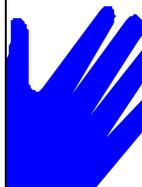
- ▶ in the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy.
- ▶ Gabriel: the same angel sent to Zacharias (and Daniel).

v. 27

- ▶ betrothed (see above) to Joseph of the house of David: note that both mother and stepfather were of the house of David, just as God has prophesied.
- ▶ Joseph's family tree is traced in Matthew 1:1-18 and Mary's in Luke 3:23-38.
- ▶ Virgin : repeated twice to emphasize the fulfillment of God's prophecy of Isaiah 7:14.

v. 28

- ▶ Rejoice, highly favored one: (sometimes "Hail, Mary") The angel's greeting to Mary has been twisted to support the worship of Mary, a modern idolatry in some churches.
- ▶ The greeting announces that Mary should rejoice because of the blessing God is giving her.



v. 29

- ▶ Troubled : Mary was perplexed, confused about the angel's words;
- ▶ considered : She thought intently about the unusual greeting.

vs. 30-33

- ▶ Do not be afraid, Mary : Like all sinful people, Mary was afraid in the presence of the holy angel.
- ▶ Jesus : Savior, Redeemer cf. with Matt 1:21.
- ▶ Called the Son of the Highest : Son of God because Jesus is exactly that.
- ▶ Throne of His father David : Jesus would be a descendent of King David according to promise and would rule over the house of Jacob (spiritual Israel) forever.

v. 34

- ▶ How can this be? : Mary was confused about the means how this would be accomplished, because pregnancy could only happen by sexual intercourse.

v. 35

- ▶ Holy Spirit shall come upon you, ...overshadow you : the Third person of the divine trinity would accomplish this mysterious miracle of uniting God with human flesh.
- ▶ So the Son of God from eternity also took on human flesh and became God and man, the Holy One, Jesus, the Incarnate (in flesh) Son of God.

vs. 36-37

- ▶ barren: without having children and assumed unable to have children because of age.
- ▶ This message was given as encouragement to Mary that God has the power to do anything.

v. 38

- ▶ maidservant of the Lord : Mary's humble acceptance of her miraculous conception demonstrates a humble willingness to take God at His Word and to serve in faith according to it.

vs. 39-40

- ▶ with haste, to .. Judah, hill country : Mary hurried the 80 miles or so to be with Elizabeth, pregnant with John, to share the good news with someone.

v. 41

- ▶ the babe leaped : John, a human baby at 6 months, reacted favorably to the mother of Jesus greeting his mother.
- ▶ Elizabeth's words show that the Holy Spirit revealed the nature of God's blessing upon Mary.

vs. 42-45

- ▶ Elizabeth spoke out : With exuberance, Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary, humbly accepted the fact of the miracle taking place within Mary and marveled that Mary should be visiting her.
- ▶ Elizabeth also encouraged Mary in her faith that the Lord would indeed fulfill His promised blessing.

vs. 46-55

- ▶ My soul magnifies the Lord : declares the greatness of the Lord in awe of His amazing blessing.
- ▶ Mary looked with joyful faith to the special baby in her womb to save her also from sin.
- ▶ All but one of the statements in Mary's song were from the Old Testament.
- ▶ has regarded the lowly state : Mary in humbleness praised God for the honor given her, despite what might be considered her low position in the world's eyes.
- ▶ Mary realized that God with great mercy was fulfilling His centuries-old promises of a Savior for her and all believers.

Matt 1:18-19

- ▶ birth of Jesus Christ : the unusual circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth needed to be explained,

especially to Mary's intended husband who would be Jesus' stepfather.

- ▶ Before they were formally married, Mary was known to be expecting a baby.
- ▶ In all other circumstances, that would have been considered a sin which according to Mosaic Law (Deuteronomy 22:13-21) could have meant her death or at least a private divorce.

vs. 20-21

- ▶ in a dream : God chose to send Joseph a message this way.
- ▶ Joseph should not fear the consequences of accepting Mary as his wife because God was working a special miracle here.
- ▶ Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit, resulting in a boy to be named Jesus.
- ▶ Notice that the message emphasizes Joseph is David's descendent and that Mary is his wife.
- ▶ Jesus' name fits His sole purpose on earth, namely, to save His people from their sins.

vs 22-23

- ▶ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet : Matthew was writing to the Jewish people, showing them that Jesus was their Savior.
- ▶ Matthew, by the Holy Spirit, quoted Isaiah 7:14 to emphasize that Jesus had to be both "God with us" and conceived of a virgin in fulfillment of God's promise.

vs 24-25

- ▶ Joseph, ..., did as the angel of the Lord commanded him : Joseph also believed the miracle within Jesus' birth and followed the instructions of the Lord.
- ▶ They called Mary's firstborn son, "Jesus."

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, You teach us today that Jesus is both Your only-begotten Son and also a human being born of a virgin named Mary. This miracle made Jesus both God and Man and so our perfect, holy Savior; we know this is a matter of faith. O Lord, strengthen our faith in this and all other mysteries of Scripture, that we may remain Your children now and into eternity. Help us to show our faith with words of praise and deeds of obedience that blessing may come through us as Your servants. In the name of Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Discuss the different ways that Christians show their love and faith in God's Word: read and meditate on the Bible; hear it in church; live, believing God's sometimes difficult truths and obeying Him in their lives; being kind and helpful to friends, relatives and neighbors. Mary and Joseph (and Elizabeth) showed that they believed God's Word. As Mary told the angel that she believed what he had told her, she praised God for this great blessing; Joseph also did as the angel said and married Mary.

Briefly review previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible.

Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, you may want to harmonize the accounts (including extra details found in each account.) Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible.

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the story and show that they understand the story.

APPLICATIONS

1. As the announcement of John's birth showed that God keeps His promises, this one shows us that God is able to do so in seemingly impossible ways, if He chooses. We learn that His power and love, although hard to grasp intellectually, are acceptable in faith. Only by faith do we understand that Jesus is indeed both God and human according to God's plan (Galatians 4:4-5). As a human being He could die in payment for our sins; as God His obedience and sin-payment could be flawless, holy and acceptable.
2. Faith in God's Word shows itself in praise of God for His amazing Grace and in obeying His directions in our lives. What blessings can result when we live God's way! We show our faith in the way we treat everyone around us. God blesses our lives and others as we live according to His Word.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Matthew 1:21 - "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

Luke 1:37 - "For with God nothing will be impossible."

Middle any of the above and...

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."

Galatians 4:4 - But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.

Upper any of the above and...

Galatians 4:4-5 - But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh.

HYMN CHOICES

"Savior of the Nations, Come" (TLH 95 vs. 3-4)

"Praise We the Lord This Day" (TLH 274)

Announcing Jesus' Birth

Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-25

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

God sent an angel to deliver a special message. The angel Gabriel was sent to a young woman named Mary. She was going to get married to a man named Joseph. The angel had very good news for Mary. He told her that she would have a son and call His name Jesus because He would be the Savior of the world.

Mary didn't understand how she could have a baby, since she did not yet have a husband. The angel told her that this baby Jesus would be the Son of God. There is nothing God cannot do!

After the angel left, Mary hurried to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was married to Zacharias and they were going to have a baby named John. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, John leaped for joy inside her womb. Mary was excited that Jesus, the Savior from sin, would be born. She sang a song praising God for all His blessings to her.

Elizabeth and Zacharias' son, John, would grow up to be John the Baptist. John would tell the people that Jesus was coming soon.

Now Joseph was a good man. When he heard that Mary was going to have a baby, he did not know that the baby was Jesus. He decided to send Mary away to have the baby instead of marrying her. But an angel came to him in a dream and told him not to worry. The angel said that Joseph should still get married, because the baby is the Son of God. The angel told Joseph that this baby was Jesus, who would save His people from their sins.

When Joseph woke up from the dream, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. He took Mary home, married her, and took care of her.

Joseph and Mary believed and trusted in God.

By faith we also believe and trust in God's promises.

Passage

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

Hymn & Prayer - WS 713 v. 1, 3

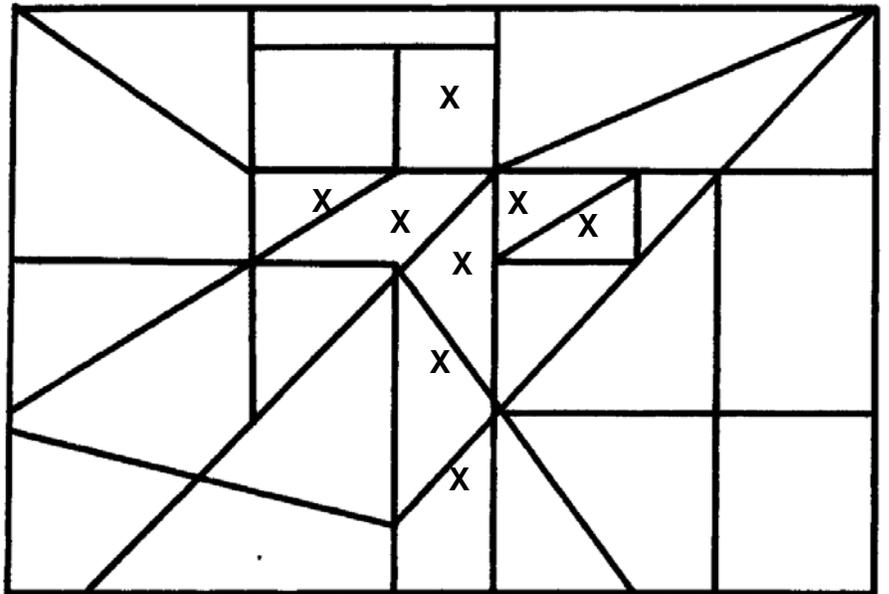
Your little ones, dear Lord, are we
And come Your lowly bed to see;
Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind
That we the way to You may find.

Oh, draw us wholly to You, Lord,
To us Your constant grace accord;
True faith and love to us impart
That we may hold You in our heart. Amen.

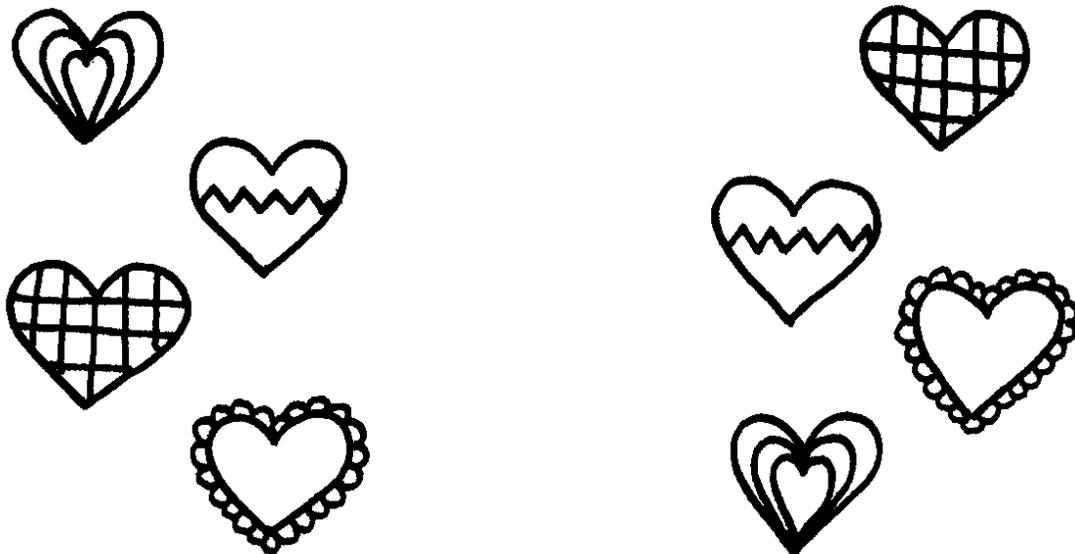


Classroom Activity -

Color in all the spaces that have an "X" to show how Jesus would save His people from their sins.



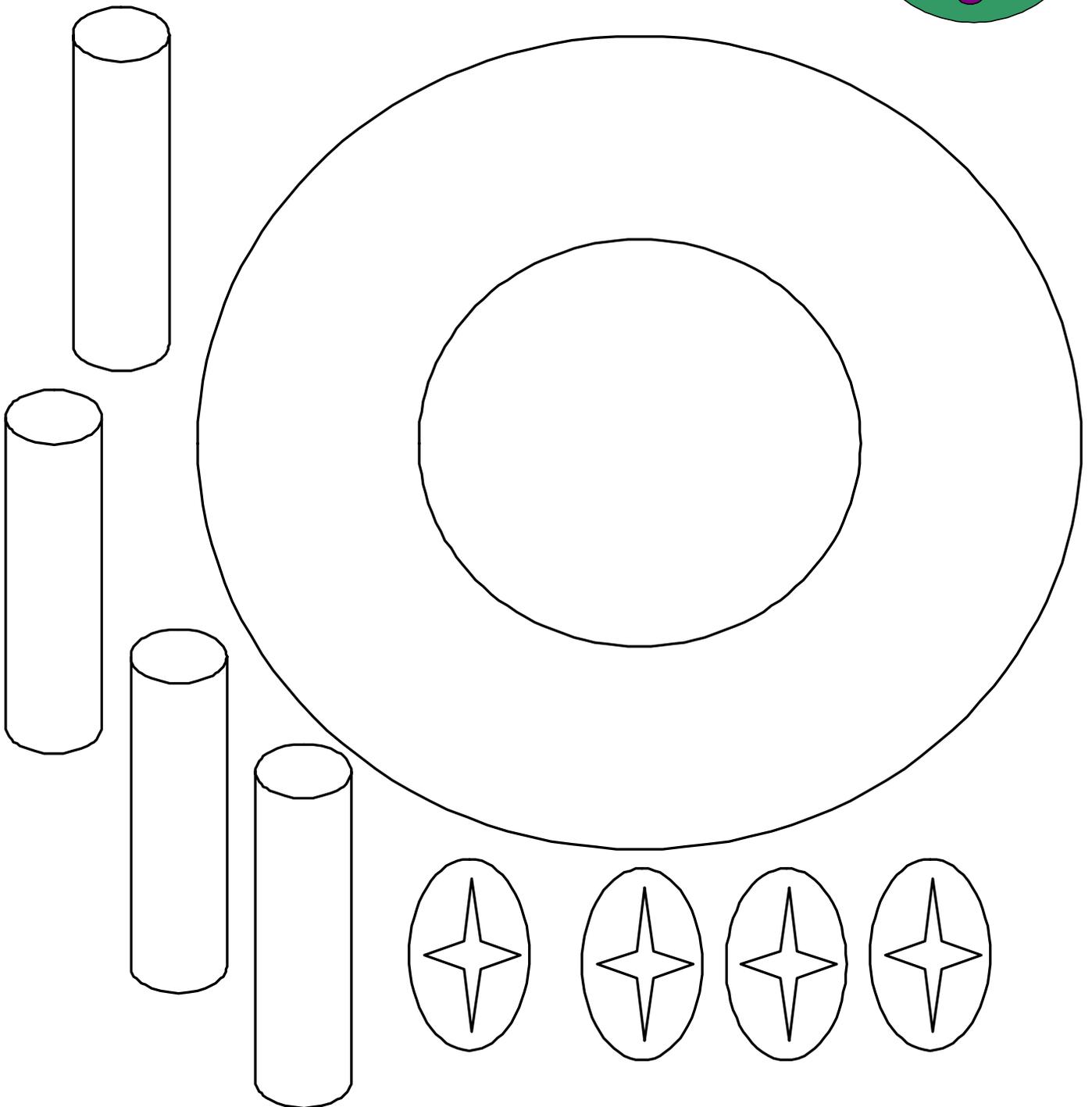
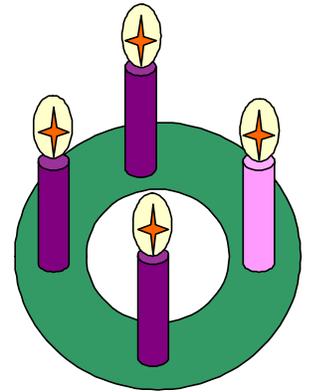
Classroom Activity - Draw lines to connect the hearts that match each other. Recite the passage until it is learned.



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart!"

Classroom Art Activity - Advent Wreath

- Color and cut out pieces below and assemble as illustrated. Be sure to have 3 purple and 1 pink candle. These may be used as patterns and have construction paper pieces and a paper plate ring. Decorate with ribbons and glitter, etc. - use your imagination.





Joseph and Mary believed and trusted in God's promise of Jesus.

Announcing A Miracle Child

Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-25



The Story

We know that nothing is too hard for God to do. Today we will talk about a special miracle that reminds us how God can do anything!

While Zacharias and Elizabeth were waiting for John to be born, God sent another angel to deliver a message. The angel Gabriel visited a young lady named Mary. She was engaged to a man named Joseph. The angel had very good news for Mary. He told her that she would have a son and call His name Jesus.

Mary didn't understand how she could have a baby, since she did not yet have a husband. The angel told her that this baby Jesus would be the Son of God. He also told her about her relative Elizabeth. Even though Elizabeth and Zacharias were old, they were going to have a baby. There is nothing God cannot do!

After the angel left, Mary hurried to visit Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, John

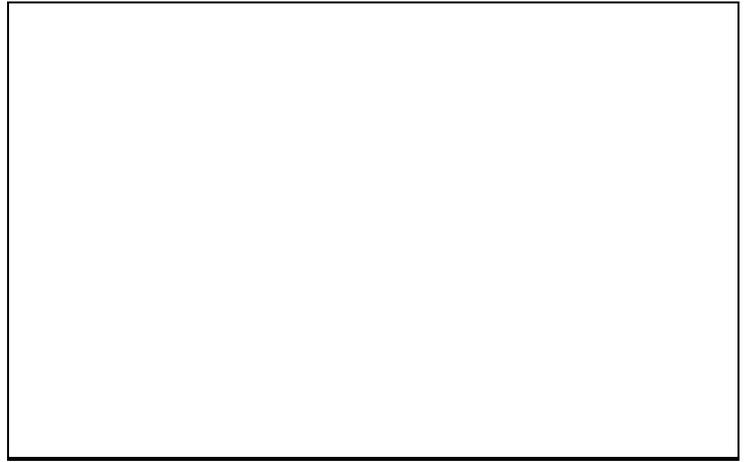
leaped for joy inside her womb. Mary was excited that Jesus, the Savior from sin, would be born. She sang a song praising God for all His blessings to her.

Now Joseph was a good man. When he heard that Mary was pregnant, he did not know that the baby was Jesus. He decided to send Mary away to have the baby instead of marrying her. But an angel came to him in a dream and told him not to worry. The angel said that Joseph should still get married, because the baby is the Son of God. The angel told Joseph that this baby was Jesus, who would save His people from their sins.

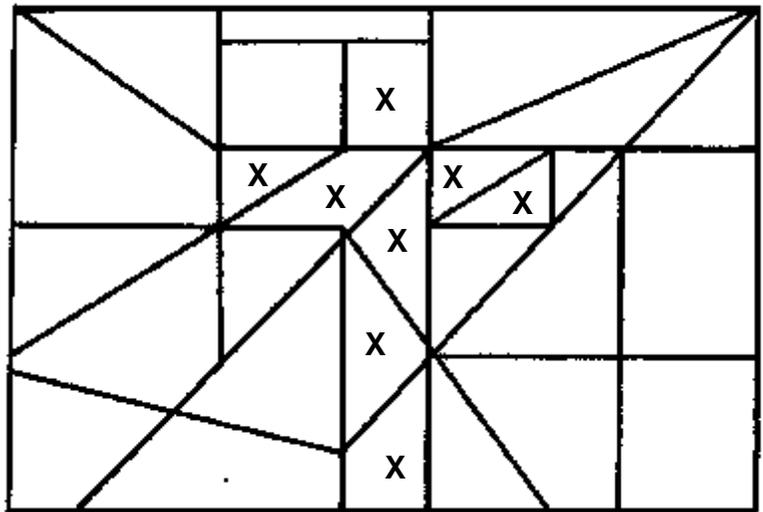
When Joseph woke up from the dream, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. He took Mary home, married her, and took care of her. Joseph and Mary believed and trusted in God.

By faith we also believe and trust in God's promises.

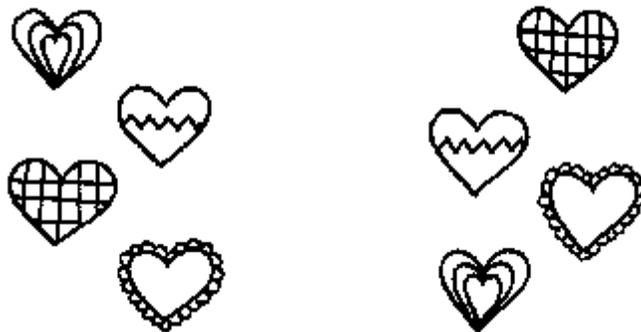
Activity One - Draw a picture that shows how Mary felt when Gabriel told her about Jesus.



Activity Two - Color in all the spaces that have an "X" to show how Jesus would save His people from their sins.



Activity Three - Draw lines to connect the hearts that match each other.



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart!”

Announcing A Miracle Child

Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-25



The Story

We know nothing is too hard for God to do. Today we will read about a special miracle which reminds us that God can do anything!

While Zacharias and Elizabeth were waiting for John to be born, God sent another angel to deliver a different message. The angel Gabriel visited a young woman named Mary. The angel had very good news for Mary. He told her she would have a son and call His name Jesus.

Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph and didn't understand how she could have a baby, since she was not yet married. The angel told her Jesus would be the Son of God. He also told her about her relative Elizabeth. Even though Elizabeth and Zacharias were old, they were going to have a baby. There is nothing God cannot do!

After the angel left, Mary hurried to visit Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, Elizabeth could feel John leap for joy inside her womb.

Mary was excited. Jesus,

the Savior from sin, would be born. She sang a song praising God for all His blessings to her.

Joseph was a good man. When Joseph heard Mary was pregnant, he did not know the baby was Jesus. He decided to send Mary away to have the baby instead of marrying her.

An angel came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said that Joseph and Mary should still get married because the baby to be born to Mary was the Son of God, Jesus, who would save all people from their sins.

When Joseph awoke from the dream, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. He took Mary home, married her, and took care of her. Joseph and Mary believed and trusted in God. By faith, we also trust and believe in God's promises.

God announces the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Activity One - Fill in the blanks to complete the following sentences. A letter has been given in each word.

God sent the angel _ _ _ _ _ **E** _ with a message to Mary.

When Mary greeted Elizabeth, **J** _ _ _ leaped in Elizabeth's womb.

An angel came to _ _ **S** _ _ _ in a dream.

Mary sang a **S** _ _ _ praising God.

By faith we _ _ **U** _ _ and believe God's promises.

Now unscramble the letters that were given to show the name of the miracle child.

_ _ _ _ _

Activity Two - Find the following names in the puzzle. Can you tell how each one is part of the miracle in today's story?

Jesus	John
Mary	Gabriel
Joseph	

B	M	K	D	A	J	L	P	O
G	A	B	R	I	E	L	E	R
F	R	V	J	O	S	E	P	H
C	Y	O	O	R	U	W	M	L
E	Q	A	H	B	S	F	I	D
T	N	M	N	E	P	R	A	Y

Believers show faith in the miracle within Jesus' birth.

Activity Three - Color over each "X" in the puzzle to show a very important message!

"FOXR WITXH GXOD NOXTHINXG

WILLX BXE IMXPOXSSIBLEX." (Luke 1:37)

Passage

She will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

Hymn - TLH 95 v. 1-4

Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh —
Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the Virgin undefiled!
Tho' by all the world disowned,
Still to be in heav'n enthroned.

From the Father forth He came
And returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell —
High the song of triumph swell!

Prayer

Dear Jesus,
Thank You for doing what seemed impossible - becoming true God and true Man. Please strengthen our faith through the study of Your Word. Help us to show our love for You in everything we think and do. Amen.

Announcing A Miracle Child

Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:19-25

Look at the picture carefully!

Is this picture possible?

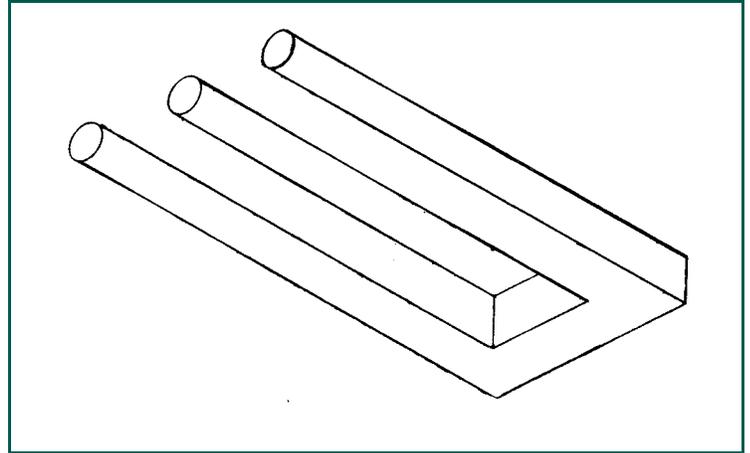
Is it impossible?

Is anything impossible?

Prayer

Dear Lord,

You alone are capable of the impossible. Help me to see the miracle of our Savior's birth through the eyes of faith. With You, all things are truly possible. Amen.



The Story - Luke 1:26-56

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, (27) to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. (28) And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

(29) But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. (30) Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. (31) And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

(32) He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. (33) And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

(34) Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

(35) And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born of you will be called the Son of God.

(36) Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. (37) For



with God nothing shall be impossible.”

(38) Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

(39) Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, (40) and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

(41) And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. (42) Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! (43) But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (44) For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. (45) Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

(46) And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, (47) and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. (48) For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. (49) For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. (50) And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. (51) He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. (52) He has put down the

mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. (53) He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. (54) He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, (55) As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever.”

(56) And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

Matthew 1:19-25

Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

(20) But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. (21) And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

(22) So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: (23) “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” (24) Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded Him and took to him his wife, (25) and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Outer Aim - God announces the miracle of Jesus' birth.

What the Story Tells Us - Write the correct letter in the blank.

1. Mary was _____ to Joseph.
 - a. married
 - b. engaged
 - c. related
2. Gabriel was sent by God to tell Mary she would be the mother of _____.
 - a. John
 - b. Joseph
 - c. Jesus
3. Mary wondered how this could be because she didn't have a _____.
 - a. husband
 - b. house
 - c. doctor
4. With God, nothing is _____.
 - a. impossible
 - b. easy
 - c. finished
5. When Elizabeth saw Mary, her baby _____.
 - a. said, "Jesus!"
 - b. was born
 - c. leaped in her womb
6. Mary praised God for _____.
 - a. doing great things for her
 - b. scattering the proud and exalting the lowly
 - c. sending the Savior
 - d. all of the above

Inner Aim - Believers show faith in the miracle of Jesus' birth.

What God Tells Us - Write "M" after each statement that identifies a miracle.

1. Mary was pregnant with Jesus. _____
2. Mary believed the words of Gabriel. _____
3. Joseph believed the words of Gabriel. _____
4. When Mary saw her, Elizabeth's baby leaped in her womb. _____
5. We believe the truth of Jesus' birth. _____

Hymn - TLH 95 v. 1-4

Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh —
Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the Virgin undefiled!
Tho' by all the world disowned,
Still to be in heav'n enthroned.

From the Father forth He came
And returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell —
High the song of triumph swell!

Passages

Matthew 1:21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

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."

Luke 1:37 "For with God nothing will be impossible."

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.

Your Turn - Mary showed her faith in God in the words of her song and in following God's directions for her. List ways we can show our faith. Write a prayer asking God to help us do so.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

You teach us today that Jesus is both Your only begotten Son and also a human being born of a virgin Mary. This miracle made Jesus both God and Man, and so our perfect, holy Savior; we know this is a matter of faith. O Lord, strengthen our faith in this and all other mysteries of Scripture, that we may remain Your children now and into eternity. Help us to show our faith with words of praise and deeds of obedience, that blessing may come through us as Your servants. In the name of Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

Announcement of Jesus' Birth

Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:19-25

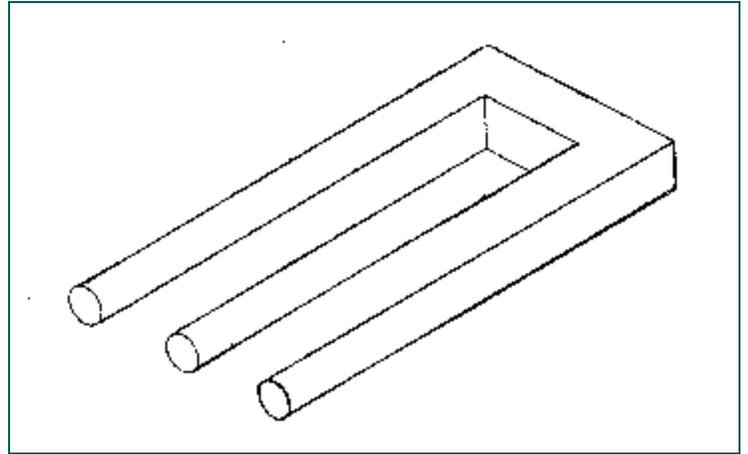
Does this picture seem possible?

Is anything in this picture impossible?

Is anything impossible?

Prayer

Dear Lord, You alone are capable of what to us may seem impossible. We thank you for accomplishing the miracle birth of Your Son, true God and true man. Be with us as we study Your Word. Through that Word make our faith strong to believe in our salvation which comes through Your marvelous miracle. Amen.



The Story - Luke 1:26-56

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, (27) to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. (28) And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

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(32) He will be great, and will be

called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. (33) And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

(34) Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

(35) And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born of you will be called the Son of God.

(36) Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. (37) For with God



nothing shall be impossible.”

(38) Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

(39) Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, (40) and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

(41) And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. (42) Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! (43) But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (44) For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. (45) Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

(46) And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, (47) and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. (48) For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. (49) For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. (50) And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. (51) He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. (52) He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. (53) He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent

away empty. (54) He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, (55) As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever.”

(56) And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

Matthew 1:19-25

Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

(20) But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. (21) And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

(22) So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: (23) “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” (24) Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded Him and took to him his wife, (25) and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Outer Aim - God announces the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Recalling Details

Tell how Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, and Elizabeth are important to today's lesson. Find and discuss at least three miracles in today's lesson.

Discussion Questions

1. Name four people to whom Gabriel had been sent.
2. Why do you think it was so important that Mary be a virgin?
3. How did Gabriel's message show that Mary's baby would be the Savior promised in the Old Testament?
4. Why might Joseph have been inclined to divorce Mary?
5. See if you can find a hymn in the Lutheran Hymnal that is based on Mary's song. Write a prayer verse of your own.

Inner Aim - Believers show faith in the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Passages

(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."

(Galatians 4:4-5) But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

(I Timothy 3:16) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh.

Hymn

Look at Hymn 274. Paraphrase each verse in a sentence or two.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, You teach us today that Jesus is both Your only begotten Son and also a human being born of a virgin named Mary. This miracle made Jesus both God and Man, and so our perfect, holy Savior; we know this is a matter of faith. O Lord, strengthen our faith in this and all other mysteries of Scripture, that we may remain Your children now and into eternity. Help us to show our faith with words of praise and deeds of obedience, that blessing may come through us as Your servants. In the name of Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.