**An Angel Visits Mary**

**Bible Focus:** Luke 1:26-40, 46-55

**Bible Memory:** 1:31 “You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.” 2:21 He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him (Luke 1:31; 2:21).

**Life Focus:** ❤ We can sing about Jesus’ birth.

**Heart to Heart**

Mary’s response to the angel’s message was pretty amazing: “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said” (Luke 1:38). Even though Mary was a young woman, her faith in God was strong. Mary not only accepted what was going to happen to her, she glorified God in her song. Mary made a good choice in how she responded to this unusual and somewhat frightening situation.

Take a few minutes and do a faith checkup. How have you responded in the past when something unusual or frightening happened to you? How do you think you will respond the next time? Maybe you too can sing a song to glorify God.

### Lesson 1 at a Glance

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*Early Elementary Teacher, Unit 1, Lesson 1*
Quick Step  “We Will Call Him Lord”

Celebrating Jesus’ birth is a great thing to do. What are some ways we can celebrate Jesus’ birth? (Allow children to answer). One way we can celebrate Jesus’ birth is to sing about it. Let’s learn a new song about Jesus’ birth.

Play “We Will Call Him Lord.” Play again and encourage kids to join in. Kids will enjoy doing these motions while they sing this song: give birth—pretend to rock a baby in your arms; Jesus—touch the middle finger of one hand to the middle of the palm of the other hand and then repeat with the other hand; Lord—make a capital L with your left hand thumb and finger and bring that hand from the left shoulder to the right side of the waist; angel—flutter hands like wings; told—cup hands around your mouth.

• What are some other songs we can sing about Jesus’ birth?

As you have time, sing a few of these songs. There are a lot of ways to celebrate Jesus’ birth. I’m glad we can sing about Jesus’ birth.

Option  Celebrate with Songs

Jesus’ birth is a time of celebration. Show Activities page 3. Let’s use these figures to help us celebrate Jesus’ birth. Distribute the activity pages and scissors. Tell children to cut out the figures. Then they can punch a hole in each figure and string with yarn.

• Ask the children to hold up their angel figures. What songs about Jesus’ birth have the word angel in them? (“Angels We Have Heard on High,” “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing,” “The First Noel,” “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”)

• Ask the children to hold up their manger figures. What songs about Jesus’ birth have the words manger or baby or child in them? (“Away in a Manger,” “What Child Is This?” “Silent Night! Holy Night!”)

• Ask the children to hold up their star figures. What songs about Jesus’ birth have the word star in them? (“Away in a Manger,” “We Three Kings”)

Let’s listen to a song that has all these words in it. Ask kids to hold up their figures whenever they hear the words angel, manger, child or baby, and star while you play “The Night That Jesus Was Born.” If time, play again and encourage kids to sing along. There are a lot of ways to celebrate Jesus’ birth. I’m glad we can sing about Jesus’ birth.

Bible Memory  Luke 1:31; 2:21

Let’s have each of you say your first, middle, and last name. Give all children the opportunity to do this. Now, on the count of three, everyone say your name out loud. Count to three and let children say their names together. Names are important. Who gave you your name? (parents, grandparents) Read Luke 1:31 and 2:21. Who told about Jesus’ name? (angels) Celebrating Jesus’ birth is a happy time. There are a lot of ways to celebrate Jesus’ birth. I’m glad we can sing about Jesus’ birth.

Materials  CD Tracks 1 and 2, CD player

Teaching Tips

The children may not know many of the words of the songs about Jesus’ birth. If they don’t, you can mention song titles. You might also want to sing or hum a line from each song. Children may recognize the tunes. Encourage kids to take their figures home and display them where they will remember to sing some songs about Jesus’ birth.

Materials  Resources CD Track 4, CD player

Transition to Explore His Word

See the Resources CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

Bible

An Angel Visits Mary, Lesson 1
Worship Time
If you want to offer a time of worship, see the Resources CD Unit 1 Worship Time Ideas printable file for suggestions.

Materials
Bibles, Teaching Picture 1

Teaching Tips
You may need to divide into smaller phrases the sentences children will repeat.

Have classroom Bibles available for children who don’t bring Bibles.

Bible Background for the Teacher
We know that Mary was from the same line of descendants as David, who was described as a man after God’s own heart. Mary must have been a woman after God’s own heart, since the angel described her as being “highly favored.”

Mary was chosen for the special responsibility of bringing God’s Son, Jesus, into the world. But Mary was not yet married to Joseph, only engaged. Engagement at that time was a binding contract culminating in a wedding a year later.

Mary went to visit her relative Elizabeth who was also expecting a child. While there, Mary sang a song of praise to God. Her reverence and awe of God comes through as she honors the one who could make this seemingly impossible event possible.

There seems to be appropriate music for all situations, and Mary’s song was certainly one of celebration for this occasion! You and the children in your class can also sing and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

An Angel Visits Mary   (Luke 1:26-40, 46-55)

In our Bible story a young woman named Mary received an important message that made her very excited and very scared. Divide the class into two groups. Tell the groups that one group will repeat some of the things Mary said and the other group will repeat some of the things the angel said. Listen for the message an angel gives Mary and what Mary sang. (Have your Bible open to Luke 1.) A young woman named Mary lived in the town of Nazareth. Mary was going to be married to a man named Joseph. Mary didn’t know it, but something very exciting was about to happen to her.

One day when Mary was alone, God sent the angel Gabriel to talk with her. Imagine how excited and how scared Mary must have been! An angel had come to talk to her! (Show Teaching Picture 1.)

Gabriel said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you” (v. 28; ask children to repeat).

Mary didn’t know what to think. She must have looked scared because the angel told her not to be afraid.

Then Gabriel told Mary some exciting news. He said, “You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus” (v. 31; ask children to repeat). Gabriel also told Mary that her son would be great and would be the Son of God. God himself would make His Son the ruler of a kingdom that would never end.

What an honor! How excited Mary must have been! An angel had come to talk to her! (Show Teaching Picture 1.)

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What an honor! How excited Mary must have been that God chose her to be the mother of His Son. Mary said to the angel, “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said” (v. 38; ask children to repeat). Then the angel left.

Mary went to visit her relative Elizabeth. Mary was so happy that she sang a
song of joy to God. Some of the words she sang were, “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior . . . the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds” (vv. 46-51; ask children to repeat at least one of the phrases).

Mary was so excited about this wonderful news that she couldn’t help but sing. And ♥ we can sing about Jesus’ birth just like Mary did.

**Bible Review Activity**

What message did the angel give Mary? (She would give birth to a son, and she was to name Him Jesus. He would be the Son of God.) **What did Mary sing?** (She sang a song that praised and glorified God.)

Let’s see what else you remember from the story. Place chairs in a circle. Attach a piece of construction paper to one chair. Tell children to walk around the chairs as you play music from the Resources CD. When the music stops, they should sit down. The child sitting in the chair with the construction paper gets to answer a question. If a child does not know an answer, let him choose a friend to help answer the question. You may want to print and use the Review Questions to help children further review the story.

• Who came to visit Mary? (the angel Gabriel)
• In what town did Mary live? (Nazareth)
• What did the angel first say to Mary? (The angel greeted her and said that the Lord was with her.)
• Who did Mary visit after the angel left? (her relative Elizabeth)
• What did Mary do because she was so happy? (sang a song to praise God)

Mary sang a song to praise God because she was going to have a baby. And ♥ we can sing about Jesus’ birth just like Mary did.

**Bible Skill Builder and Bible Memory Activity**


Display the Bible Memory poster. Read the words on the poster while pointing to the words. Pause when you come to a blank line and ask who knows what word is missing. When a child says the right word, let him press out that word from the bottom of the poster and attach it with reusable adhesive to the blank line. Continue until all the blanks have been filled.

When the poster is completed, point to the words as you lead the kids in saying the verses together. Mary sang when she found out she was going to have a baby named Jesus. And ♥ we can sing about Jesus’ birth too.
Life Focus

♥ We can sing about Jesus’ birth.

Make It Real (15 minutes)

Step 3 • Use one of these activities to help children list places to sing about Jesus’ birth.

Quick Step I Could Sing!

We’ve learned about the exciting news the angel told Mary and how Mary sang a song to praise God. Let’s think about some places where ♥ we can sing about Jesus’ birth.

Tell the children you will read some sentences. If a sentence tells about a place where they could sing about Jesus’ birth, they should stand up and say “I could sing!” If a sentence does not tell a place where they could sing about Jesus, they should stay seated and not say anything. Responses may vary.

- We can sing about Jesus’ birth at the playground.
- We can sing about Jesus’ birth at church.
- We can sing about Jesus’ birth on the school bus.
- We can sing about Jesus’ birth at home.
- We can sing about Jesus’ birth at the public library.
- We can sing about Jesus’ birth at school.
- We can sing about Jesus’ birth at a friend’s home.
- We can sing about Jesus’ birth while eating dinner at a restaurant.

• Are there other places where ♥ we can sing about Jesus’ birth?

There may be a few places we can’t sing aloud, but I’m glad that there are lots of places where ♥ we can sing about Jesus’ birth.

Option “Joy to the World”

We’ve learned about the exciting news the angel told Mary and how Mary sang a song to praise God. Let’s think about places where ♥ we can sing about Jesus’ birth as we sing a song. Play “Joy to the World” and invite children to join in singing.

• Where are some places we can sing about Jesus’ birth? (Sunday school class, church worship service, home, playground, friend’s home, home of a shut-in, nursing home)

I’m glad that there are lots of places where ♥ we can sing about Jesus’ birth.

Option Story from Weekly Bible Reader®

We’ve learned about the exciting news the angel told Mary and how Mary sang a song to praise God. Let’s think about some times ♥ we can sing about Jesus’ birth as we read a story together. Read “A Happy Birthday” from Issue 1.

• Where are some places we can sing about Jesus’ birth? (Sunday school class, church worship service, home, playground, friend’s home, home of a shut-in, nursing home)

I’m glad that there are lots of places where ♥ we can sing about Jesus’ birth.
Quick Step  Sing and Celebrate

Mary sang when she learned that she would have a baby, and we’ve named times we can sing about Jesus’ birth. Let’s sing about Jesus’ birth!

Play and sing “We Will Call Him Lord,” “Joy to the World,” and “The Night That Jesus Was Born.” Motions for “We Will Call Him Lord” can be found in Step 1. If you have rhythm instruments, you might want to let kids play them while they sing. You can also sing the following words to the tune of “Jingle Bells”:

Happy news, happy news! The angel told Mary.  
You will have a boy—God’s Son—he’ll be a special baby.  
Close with a time of prayer. Invite all the children to say the following prayer with you: Dear God, thank You for the songs we can sing about Jesus’ birth. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Option  Praise Microphones

We’ve learned that Mary sang when she learned that she would have a baby. And we’ve named times we can sing about Jesus’ birth. Let’s make praise microphones that will help us sing about Jesus’ birth.

Before class, cut construction paper to fit around empty paper towel tubes, one for each child. Distribute the construction paper, empty paper towel tubes, markers, and clear tape. Print “I can sing about Jesus’ birth” on the board and have children copy that onto their pieces of paper. Allow students to decorate their papers. Help the students roll the papers around the paper tubes and tape the edges of the papers together. Show the kids how to ball up a piece of tissue paper to fit into one end, leaving most of the paper out of the tube.

Have kids use their microphones to sing “We Will Call Him Lord,” “Joy to the World,” and “The Night That Jesus Was Born.”

Close with prayer. Encourage several children to pray aloud and thank God for songs about Jesus’ birth that they like to sing.

Saying Good-bye

• Distribute Issue 1 of Weekly Bible Reader® and the Activities page 2 Unit 1 Bible Memory poster and stickers. Stickers are in the middle of Early Elementary Activities. Encourage kids to complete their posters at home by adding the stickers.

• Make sure children have projects and activity sheets they have done.

• If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on page 6.

• Be sure parents know about the Faith & Family page, available online to download and use at home. You may want to print and have a copy on display for parents to see. Go to www.heartshaper.com.

Evaluate

• How eager were children to sing about Jesus’ birth?

• Were any children reluctant to participate? How can you help those children participate?