

God's Promise to Mary

Lesson Aim: To know we can trust God to keep His promises because nothing is impossible with God.

PROPHETS AND PROMISES PART 2

THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, & THE WAY

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God of Peace

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 1:26-38

What He has done: God told Mary she would have His Son who was promised through the prophet Isaiah.

Key Verse: Luke 1:37

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Isaiah 7:14

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given:
and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

For your own encouragement this week, read Luke 1:46-56. Please join us in praying this week's Teacher's Prayer: "Thank you Lord, for including Your servant Mary in fulfilling Your promise of salvation. May we glorify You as Mary did in her willing heart and her courage to believe. Amen."

PREPARE

Highlight in your Bible:

☐ Luke 1:26-38

☐ Isaiah 7:14

Read:

☐ Teacher's Guide

☐ At-A-Glance

TEACHER TIP

Complete THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, and THE WAY. If time allows, choose a Got Time? activity or create your own activity to illustrate the Bible Story, the Aim, or the Bible Memory Verse.

Resources: The additional resources referred to in this lesson and supplemental materials are available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net. To be a resource yourself, click on the Teacher's Blog tab to share your ideas with teachers worldwide.

PRESET

THE WELCOME

☐ Getting Started—Colored note cards, marker

THE WORSHIP

☐ Advent Scripture Reading—Luke 1:31-33

☐ Bible Memory Verse Song—"For Unto Us"

☐ Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony: Table or stand, wreath of greenery with four candles, center candle, matches, Bible

☐ Other related music

☐ Worship Illustration or Storybook Lesson 49

THE WORD

☐ Golden Bowl—pencils & note cards

☐ Bibles, highlighters

☐ Timeline—The Birth of Jesus (0 A.D.)

☐ Map—Nazareth, Israel

☐ Conceal the Bible Story and Christ Connection Scripture references to be unveiled during THE WORD and THE WAY.

THE WAY

☐ Daily Way Lesson 49

☐ Treasure Treat—angel-shaped ornament or magnet: "Nothing is impossible with God."

GOT TIME?

Angel food cake, drinks, napkins, plates, cups, multi-colored candy pieces, multi-colored candies, sturdy green paper, scissors, glue, sequins or glitter, markers or crayons, paper cups, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, chalkboard and chalk, or dry erase board and marker, or large paper and pencil, large ball, permanent marker



1. THE WELCOME

Getting Started

(10 minutes)

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's
Meet & Greet Question: What's one thing that is impossible for you to do?

GAME: PROMISE MESSENGERS

PURPOSE: Children will be introduced to the idea that nothing is impossible with God after putting part of Gabriel's message to Mary in order.

SUPPLIES: Colored note cards (or colored paper cut into cards), marker

PREPARE: Write each of the following words from Luke 1:37 on a separate note card creating a different color set for each team. "For nothing is impossible with God." For younger children or non-readers, number the back of the cards in order.

SAY> Today we will learn about the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary. We have been learning about prophets who are God's messengers. Angels are God's messengers, too. Angels are heavenly beings. Mary was probably very surprised to see Gabriel and to hear God's message for her. Let's play a game to find out part of God's message to Mary.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Form teams with four or five children on each team.
2. Assign each team a card color and have them for a line.
3. Scatter all of the cards word-side down at the opposite end of the play area.
4. On your signal, one member from each team runs to get a card that matches their team color and then runs back to the team allowing the next child in line to run and get a card.
5. Teams continue running to get cards until all of their color cards have been collected.
6. After each team has collected their cards they must work together to put the cards in order. Children may use the Bible and find Luke 1:37 if they need help.
7. One member of the team reads the message aloud to their team.

ASK> What is impossible for God to do? (Nothing.) Who would be with Mary? (The Lord, God.) God had important plans for Mary. Mary must have been very thankful that God was with her. Let's read our Bible story and find out the rest of God's message.

Option: Limited Space? Omit the relay portion of this game. Instead, each team races to put their cards in order.



2. THE WORSHIP

Worship Theme: The God of Peace

(15 minutes)

Today we worship the God of Peace. It may seem impossible to have peace between God and people, or peace between groups of people, but nothing is impossible with God. We can trust God to do amazing and impossible things with our offering. (Sing: "You Will Seek Me" as the offering is collected.)

Mary sang a song praising God for the mighty things He had already done. She trusted God to do the mighty things He promised to do in the future. When Gabriel told Mary the Savior would come as a baby, she may have remembered the Bible verses spoken by the prophet Isaiah hundred of years before. As we sing those words together. Imagine how Mary felt to know that her child would be her Savior, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. (Sing: "For Unto Us.")

***Teacher Tip:** At this point in the lesson, you may choose to conduct the Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony located on the next page. It includes the reading of Luke 1:31-33.

Worship Elements:

- Designate a special corner or area for worship.
- Select songs that focus on trusting God
- Advent Candle Light Ceremony: The Promise Candle
- Advent Scripture Reading: Luke 1:31-33
- Lead a prayer to bless the offering: collect offering
- Perform Worship Illustration or read Storybook:
 - Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 49

Unit 10 Song Suggestions:

Sheet music and recordings available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net.

- Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "For Unto Us"
- "I Bring You Good News"
- "For God So Loved The World"
- "At The Name Of Jesus"
- "Search Me, O God"
- "You Will Seek Me"

Unit 10 Hymn Suggestions:

- "Angels We Have Heard On High"
- "Away In A Manger"

Unit 10 Song Collection Suggestions:

- Worship Jamz Christmas—Worship Jamz
- Shout Praises Kids Christmas

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

"For Unto Us"

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)



(Verse)

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a Son is given,
unto us a Son is given,
unto us a Son is given.
And the government shall be
upon His shoulder.

(Chorus)

And His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor,
the Mighty God,
the Everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace,
the Prince of Peace,
the Prince of Peace,
the Prince of Peace.

(Repeat Verse)

(Repeat Chorus)

For unto us a child is born,
For unto us a child is born,
For unto us a child is born,
unto us...

Sheet music and recordings available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Advent Week 2: The Promise Candle

Participants: Adult leader, one or two children to light candle and read

Supplies: Table or stand with wreath of greenery with four candles placed in wreath, one white candle (the Christ Candle) in the center of the wreath, matches, Bible opened to Luke 1:31-33.

Prep Steps: None

SAY> Advent means coming—the coming of Jesus. The Advent season helps get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Our Advent Wreath is round; it has no end just as God’s love for us has no end.

SAY> Each candle on the Advent Wreath stands for one of the four Sundays before Christmas. The center candle is called the Christ Candle. We will light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve when we join with many families to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

SAY> Today we light the second candle of Advent, the Promise Candle. As we light the Promise Candle, imagine what it would be like if an angel appeared to you with a promise from God. (Child lights the second candle.)

SAY> As you look at the candlelight, listen to the words of the angel Gabriel announcing God’s promise that Mary would have a baby who would be the Son of God. (Child or Leader reads Luke 1:31-33 from the Bible.)

Luke 1:31-33

“You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His Kingdom will never end.”

***Teacher Tip:** Close the Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony with song or prayer.
Song suggestion: Sing one verse of “What Child Is This?” and have the children think about the way God used a young teenager like Mary to keep the promise He made to send a Savior.



3. THE WORD

(5 minutes)

Gabriel told Mary about God's Son

Transition: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant. (Read Class Covenant.)

CLASS COVENANT

I will keep my  on my teacher,
my  in control,
my  on God's Word;
knowing God is my goal.

BIBLE TIMELINE

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to The Birth of Jesus (Circa 0 A.D.). This segment of the Bible Timeline covering Prophets & Promises Units 7-10 spans from Circa 870 B.C through the birth of Christ (Circa 0 A.D.). For Bible Timeline Review information, see GOT TIME?

Last time we learned Isaiah's prophecy about the coming of the Savior. Today we will learn how God sent an angel to the small town of Nazareth with a message for Mary about how that Savior would be born. (If map is available, point to Nazareth, Israel.)

During the 400 years before the birth of Jesus, God sent no more prophecies to His people. It was a time of waiting. Then, at just the right time, God sent the angel Gabriel to a teenager named Mary with a prophecy about the coming of the Lord. Let's find out exactly what Gabriel said to Mary.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. (Hand out spare Bibles.) Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain. (Or secret door, secret window, etc. Child unveils Bible Story Scripture reference: Luke 1:26-38.) Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! (Children race through the pages to find it first. The winner helps others find it.) Let's highlight our Key Verse: Luke 1:37.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us? (Child prays aloud.) Be seated.

As we read, imagine what it would have been like to see an angel and hear God's promise to change the world through you. (Read Luke 1:26-38.)



4. THE WAY

(13 minutes)

Nothing is impossible with God

First Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid because God loved her and was with her. If the angel Gabriel appeared to you, how would you feel? (Respond.) How are Gabriel's words true for you? (Respond.) God loves you and His Holy Spirit is with us now.

God promised to send a Savior who would change the world. God chose young Mary to help make that promise come true. God will continue to change the world and build His Kingdom through the power of the Holy Spirit working in any of us who are willing. God uses His people to change the world in many ways. What are some ways God can change the world and build His Kingdom through you right now? (We can build God's Kingdom by loving and serving others, telling others about Jesus, making choices that are right in God's eyes, etc.)

What are some of the biggest problems the world faces today? (Hunger, terrorism, disease, war, poverty, etc.) Do you believe God can use you to change the world in facing these challenges? (Respond.) Jesus tells us the two most important commandments are to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself. (Mathew 22:37-39.) How can doing each of these things change the world? (After children respond, provide examples of local and global outreach and service opportunities.)

Sometimes is it hard to believe that God will use us in mighty ways. What were Gabriel's last words to Mary? (Nothing is impossible with God.) When has God done something in your life that you thought was impossible? (Respond.) Is there something you are hoping for now that seems impossible? (Respond.)

Mary asked how God's promise would happen, because it seemed impossible. Since nothing is impossible with God, we can trust that He will keep His promises, even when we don't understand how they will happen. Just as Mary did, we have questions about God's plan. If the angel Gabriel suddenly appeared to you, what questions would you ask him about God's plan for you? (Respond.) What were Mary last words to the angel? ("May it be to me as you have said.") Even though it seemed impossible, Mary trusted God to keep His promise. She was willing to do whatever the Lord had chosen for her to do.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

700 years before the angel Gabriel told Mary she would give birth to the Savior, Isaiah gave a prophecy about a sign that would help people know when the Savior had been born. The sign was about a virgin; a virgin is a girl who is pure and has never been married. Listen to the sign the Lord promised to give us.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone place your Bibles closed on your laps. (Choose a child to unveil Christ Connection Scripture reference: Isaiah 7:14.) Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. (Read Isaiah 7:14.)

Over 700 years before Mary was born, God had already chosen her to be the mother of Jesus. Before you were born, God had already chosen amazing things for you. Let's pray that each of us will be willing to trust God's promised plan, just as Mary did. (Lead a brief prayer asking God to help us trust God's promises and plan for our lives. This prayer may be included in the Golden Bowl Prayer found in the next segment of THE WAY.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GOLDEN BOWL

Revelation 5:8

The Golden Bowl contains names of classmates, a local church leader and a child in another nation.

The Bible says that our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. So I'm going to lift each one of you up to God's throne out loud as you pray for each person silently. Then we'll pray out loud the Lord's Prayer. (Matthew 6:9-13.) Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say out loud and the ones hidden in our hearts.

First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____ (read names in Golden Bowl).

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

TREASURE TREAT



Today, your Treasure Treat is an angel-shaped magnet (or ornament) with the angel Gabriel's message, "Nothing is impossible with God." Display it in a place where it can remind you and your family that all things are possible with our God.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE



Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time? (Praise or reward those who returned Daily Way; collect in basket.) Take home this week's Daily Way. (Distribute Lesson 49 Daily Way 5-day Bible study.) Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Return it and place it in our class basket. When we fill the basket, we'll celebrate with a class surprise!

OFFERING OF ART



Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the angel Gabriel telling Mary that nothing is impossible with God. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering to the teacher for display.

PRAYER REQUESTS



As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write individual requests in your teacher's prayer notebook.



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



5. GOT TIME?

If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.



SNACK, GAME AND CRAFT

SNACK: ANGEL CAKE

PURPOSE: Children will eat a snack that reminds them of the angel in today's story.

SUPPLIES: Angel food cake (or similar white, fluffy snack), drink, napkins, plates, cups

ASK ≥ **Who was Gabriel?** (An angel.) **Why did Gabriel visit Mary?** (To deliver a promise from God.) **Gabriel gave God's promise to Mary. Mary must have been very surprised to see an angel! Let's eat some cake named after angels and talk about your biggest surprises.**

DIRECTIONS:

1. Distribute the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What's the biggest surprise you have ever had?"**

GAME: MIRACLE COLOR QUIZ

PURPOSE: Children tell of a miracle proving that nothing is impossible for God.

SUPPLIES: Multi-colored candies (For example: candy-coated chocolate pieces, gumballs.)

ASK ≥ **Gabriel said, "Nothing is impossible with God." When God does something that seems impossible to us, we call it a miracle. Name the miracles we learned about in our Bible story today?** (An angel appeared to Mary. Mary would be the mother of Jesus. Elizabeth was going to have a baby even though she was very old.) **Can you think of the miracles you have read about in the Bible or have happened to you or someone you know?**

DIRECTIONS:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Each child chooses up to five pieces of candy.
3. Choose one child to go first.
4. Child says one of God's miracles for each different color of candy he or she is holding. (The miracles can be from the Bible, personal experience, or a miracle the child has heard about.) Child may eat candy once his or her turn is finished.
5. Go around the circle; letting each child take a turn.

***Teacher Tip:** Challenge children who are familiar with many Bible stories to not repeat miracles other children have listed. If children need help remembering miracles, suggest the following: God created the world, God parted the Red Sea, God took Elijah to heaven in a chariot, Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus fed 5,000 people, Jesus healed a man's sight, Jesus walked on water, Jesus rose from the dead.

Option: Use colorful stickers or bits of paper instead of candy.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WREATH

PURPOSE: To create a Christmas decoration as a reminder that nothing is impossible with God.

SUPPLIES: Sturdy green paper, scissors, glue, sequins or glitter, markers or crayons, paper cups

PREPARE: Write where children can see to copy:

"Nothing is impossible with God."

Luke 1:37

SAY God sent the angel Gabriel to give a message to Mary. What promise did God give to her? (She would have baby Jesus who is God's Son.) At first Mary did not think God's promise sounded possible. Why was God able to keep His promise? (Because God can do anything.) God kept His promise to Mary and now we celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. God will keep His promises to you, too. Let's make a Christmas decoration to help you remember that nothing is impossible with God. He can keep all His promises!

DIRECTIONS:

1. Trace your open hand eight times onto green paper.
2. Cut out each hand-shape to make the leaves for the wreath.
3. Overlap hand-shape cutouts at the wrists in a circular shape with the fingers pointing out.
4. Secure hands together with glue.
5. Trace the rim of a cup three times onto red paper.
6. Cut out the red circles to make berries.
7. Divide the following verse into three parts and copy one part onto each berry: **"Nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37.**
8. Glue the berries to your wreath.
9. Decorate with sequins or glitter.
10. Take your wreath home and hang it on a door or wall during Christmas time.

***Teacher Tip:** If you have limited time, pre-cut most of the hand-shapes and berries for each child; letting them trace and cut out one or two of their own hand-shapes and/or berries.

Option: Add a loop of ribbon at the top for a hanger. Instead of red and green, use colors that are traditional Christmas colors in your area. Or provide pre-traced or cut-out yellow crown shapes to use in place of the hand and circle shapes.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

GAME: APPEARING ANGEL

PURPOSE: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6.

SUPPLIES: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, chalkboard and chalk, or dry erase board and marker or large piece of paper and pencil

PREPARE: Display the Bible Memory Verse poster

DIRECTIONS:

1. Choose one phrase from the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse from the list below.
2. Draw one line for each letter in the phrase. Include a blank space between each word.
3. Choose a volunteer to guess a letter. If the letter is found in the phrase, write it on every blank where it belongs. If the letter is not in the phrase, draw one part of an angel (such as a robe or a hand).
4. Choose another volunteer to guess a letter.
5. Continue playing until the children have guessed all of the letters and revealed the phrase or until the angel drawing is complete. (Robe, head, hands, feet, smile, eyes, nose, hair, etc.)
6. The goal is to complete the phrase before completing the angel drawing.
7. After the phrase is revealed, use the description below to explain that part of the verse.
8. If time allows, play again using another phrase. Use different phrases in each lesson of this unit.

Phrase

"For unto us a child is born"

"Unto us a Son is given"

"And the government shall be on His shoulders"

"And His name will be called"

"Wonderful Counselor"

"Mighty God"

"The Everlasting Father"

"The Prince of Peace"

Description

Jesus was born as a baby.

God sent His Son to earth to be our Savior.

Jesus will one day rule the world.

There are many names for God

The Holy Spirit will guide us to do things God's way.

God is so strong; He can do anything.

God is our heavenly Father.

Jesus gives us peace in our hearts.

GAME: TOSS-A-VERSE

PURPOSE: Children memorize the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6.

SUPPLIES: Large ball (inflatable beach ball, soccer ball, etc.), permanent marker

PREPARE: Write the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse on the ball.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. One child holds the ball and says the first word of the verse.
3. Child tosses the ball to another child who says the next word.
4. Children toss the ball to each other until they have completed the verse.
5. They can use the verse written on the ball to help them remember the words. Encourage children to learn the verse so they do not need to look at the words on the ball.

***Teacher Tip:** Large group? Divide into one or more teams. Have teams race against each other to complete the game first.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Review the recent Bible Stories studied to see the continuing story of God and His people. Hang the Bible Timeline on a wall or other visible location. Point to the Bible Timeline and ask the corresponding questions.

Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)

Malachi was the last prophet to speak before the birth of Jesus. He gave the people God's message that they were robbing Him by not bringing their tithes and offerings to Him.

What is a tithe? (A tithe is ten percent of our money; God commands believers to give it to His church.) **God challenged the people to tithe and see how much God would bless them.**

400 Years of Silence (Circa 400 B.C.-1 B.C.)

Malachi was the last Old Testament prophet to speak before the birth of Christ. This period is known as the 400 years of silence because there were no new prophecies. Over the previous 800 years, God's people had heard many prophecies from God's prophets, including Isaiah's prophecy about the coming of the Lord and what He would accomplish.

The Birth of Jesus (Circa 0 A.D.)

A.D. stands for Anno Domini, which means "the Year of our Lord." A.D. begins with Jesus' birth and continues until the end of time. Everything written in the law and the prophets led up to the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. God used the angels, Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah, John the Baptist, shepherds, and the heavenly host to fulfill the prophecies about the coming Savior. Sin separates each person from God. So God gave His only Son, Jesus so that whoever believes in Him will have life forever close with God.

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah to the Birth of Christ:

1. Print Lesson title or person's name with historical date (whenever available) on a card. Before each lesson, add that new card to the Bible Timeline.
2. Attach card to wall or clothesline in the following order:
Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.) > 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-0 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 0 A.D.)