



**Worship Illustration: Storybook
The Love Sub
Prophets & Promises: Advent of the Promised One
Unit 10, Lesson 49**

Advent 2: God's Promise to Mary

Luke 1:26-38

Shiloh slid down the pole into the Time Travel room. With a thud, he landed feet first on the floor. When he turned around, he saw Handsome waving. "Oh hey, Handsome! Give me five!" They slapped palms. "Hey, dude, you haven't seen Uncle Woody, have you?" Handsome held up the remote in reply. "Oh, that's right! He traveled back in time with Isaiah and he's due back right now? Awesome! Well, bring him back!"

Handsome pushed a few buttons and the computer announced, "Time Travel Alert! Time Travel Alert! We have a time travel visitor in 3-2-1!"

Woodstock came sliding down the Time Travel Tube. He stood up slowly and looked around. "Whoa! Dudes, I'm back on board the Love Sub! No matter how far back I travel it always feels good to come home."

"Uncle Woody!" Shiloh greeted.

"What's up, Shiloh?!" Woodstock replied, pulling his nephew into a big hug.

"How was your trip? Did Isaiah get home safely?" Shiloh asked.

"Oh yeah, I got him back to his time, but ..." Woodstock frowned and bowed his head. "... I felt bad leaving him there."

"You did? Why?" Shiloh asked, confused.

"Well, he lived in a time before Jesus had even been born," Woodstock explained, "a time when God's people were still hoping, praying, and waiting for God to send a Savior."

Shiloh shook his head. "Far out, man. I can't even imagine my life without Jesus. I wonder what people put their hope in."

"They put their hope in God. I know Mary did. She learned nothing was impossible with God. I can show you in the Power Source. Here, let me get it out!" Woodstock opened the Power Panel and removed the Bible.

"Wasn't she Jesus' mother?" Shiloh asked.

"She was about to be His mother, and she found out about it from an angel!" Woodstock said, as he turned the pages of the Bible to find Luke 2:26.

"An angel? I've never seen an angel," Shiloh stated. Handsome searched through a box and handed an angel ornament to him. "Oh thanks, Handsome, but what I meant was I've never seen a real live angel."

"Neither did Mary until one appeared to her! His name was Gabriel," Woodstock said.

"Whoa!" Shiloh exclaimed. "What did Gabriel say?"

Woodstock continued reading, "He said she'd found favor with God."

"What does that mean?" Shiloh asked, tilting his head in wonder.

"It means God was really pleased with her. He had chosen her," Woodstock said. "Then, Gabriel told her she was going to give birth to a son named Jesus who would be the Son of the Most High."

Shiloh stared at his uncle. "He told a young girl with no husband that she was going to give birth to the Son of God? How can that even happen?"

"That's what Mary asked," Woodstock replied with a laugh.

"What did Gabriel say to that?" Shiloh said with a breath of amazement.

"He said not to worry," Woodstock explained, "because the Holy Spirit would take care of all the details."

"But, but, that seems impossible!" Shiloh stuttered.

"It is impossible for us, but not for God." Woodstock read Luke 1:37, "'For nothing is impossible with God.'"

Shiloh grinned at the sight of the flashing, green promise light. "Dig it! Is that what Gabriel said?"

Woodstock nodded. "He sure did. It was God's promise to Mary."

"Now, that's a promise no one can argue with. God has done so many impossible things like ..." Shiloh said, as he reached for the Bible and flipped through the pages. "... like when He made the earth in seven days!"

Woodstock nodded and peered at the pages over his shoulder. "Yes! And, when He created man and breathed life into us!"

Shiloh pointed to Ezekiel's book and looked up at his uncle. "And, remember that time God breathed life into those bones right in front of Ezekiel's eyes?"

Woodstock stepped back and leaned against the console panel. "God is quite an expert at creating life where there was none before."

"Out of sight!" Shiloh exclaimed. "What did Mary say when Gabriel told her the good news?"

"Let's read it and find out!" Woodstock said, as Shiloh gave him the Bible. He turned back to Luke 1:38 and read, "'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May it be to me as you have said.' Then the angel left her."

"Whoa, dude! That Mary was one smart dudette!" Shiloh stated.

Woodstock laid the Bible on the table. "It's a wise servant who trusts in God. After all, He has proven to us again and again that nothing is impossible with Him!"

"Amen! Now, I see why they call it the miracle of Christmas," Shiloh said with a wide smile.

"Christmas is a great time to celebrate the most awesome miracle of all—God's gift of His Son Jesus, our Lord and Savior! No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!" Woodstock explained. He stopped and looked at the galley door. "And now, I'm starving after my long trip. What do we have to eat around here?"

"Handsome just finished baking Christmas cookies," Shiloh suggested.

"Mmmm, sounds good!" Woodstock said. Off they went, Woodstock leading the way into the galley in search of the warm sugar cookies.