

Lesson 125

Jesus' Parents

Mary and Joseph humbly submitted to God's plan.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of adoration and tell God how much we love him.

I'll start. Dear God, we love you because . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Who do both the Old Testament AND the New Testament tell us about?
Jesus, our Savior.

Why was Jesus born as a baby? So that he could die to save sinners.

Did Jesus ever do anything wrong (sin)? No. Jesus is perfect with no sin.
Who is Jesus? Jesus is God the Son.

Bible Pass Around

Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Today, we are going to look into God's Word, the Bible. Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. I want everyone to count with me up to the number _____. (You may also choose to recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.) As we say each number (or word), you will carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready for it in our lesson. Hand the Bible to the first student. Here we go!

Pre-K Lesson

K-1st Lesson

Pre-K Lesson

Introduction

Refer to Lesson 124 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we saw how God sent an angel to make some exciting announcements. The angel Gabriel announced to Zechariah that he would have a son, John, who would be the messenger to come before the Messiah. Then the angel told Mary that her son would be the Messiah, the one God had chosen to save sinners!

Have the optional bag of treats ready.

To start today, we're going to play a quick obedience game. I will call on someone to come stand by me. The rest of you will help me decide on three things he must obey before he can sit back down. Ready? Choose a volunteer to stand beside you. Have the class help you decide on three actions for him to do. For example, you might say, "Student, you must spin around in a circle, squat down, then jump up and down three times." Have the class watch to see if he does everything you told him to. Make a checkmark on the board for each completed action. Optional: bring a bag of treats for the students to have after they complete all the actions then share with the rest of the class after the game is over.

You all did a great job obeying! As children, you hear about obedience a lot from your parents and teachers, but did you know obedience is just as important for adults?

The two adults God chose to be the parents of Jesus had to obey God or things could have been very different. Let's take a closer look at the parents of Jesus.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

We learned that the angel Gabriel visited Mary and said she would be the mother of the Messiah. Mary told the angel that she would obey God.

Gabriel told Mary some other surprising news. Her cousin Elizabeth was also going to have a special baby very soon. Elizabeth was Zechariah's wife, and their baby was John. After the angel left, Mary went to visit Elizabeth and Zechariah.

Luke 1:41-44

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's read from the Gospel of Luke to see what happened when Mary got there. Have the student with the Bible bring it up and open it to the sticky note. Read Luke 1:41-44.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, what did her baby do? Elizabeth's baby (John) leaped in her womb.

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Elizabeth's baby leaped with joy when Mary came in.

Have any of you felt a baby move or kick inside a mother's belly?
Allow answers.

It's exciting to feel a little baby moving around. We know that babies are alive before they're born and can kick and move when they hear voices or loud noises.

What was so special about Mary that made baby John move? What did Elizabeth call Mary, the mother of who? (Verse 43) My Lord.

Baby John leaped with joy at Mary's voice because she was the mother of Jesus the Savior. And John was the one who would grow up to help people get their hearts ready for Jesus.

Mary sang a song of praise to God, which gives us a good idea of what kind of person she was. It shows that Mary was humble. She didn't feel proud of herself for being chosen as the mother of the Savior. Instead, she praised God.

Mary sang about God's greatness and power. What word means God is all-powerful? Omnipotent.
She also sang of how God always keeps his promises, like sending a Savior. What word means God keeps his promises? Faithful.

God gave Mary the special honor of being the mother of Jesus. And she was ready to obey God and do what he said. But she was also humble; she didn't think she was better than anyone else. Mary accepted the responsibility God gave her and obeyed.

An Angel Visits Joseph

Let's take a look at Jesus' earthly father, Joseph. Remember, Jesus is God, but he came to earth as a baby. God the Father chose Joseph to act as Jesus' father

after he was born, and Jesus would grow up in Joseph and Mary's family.

The Bible doesn't tell us very much about Joseph, but we do know he was a carpenter, who built things with wood.

Joseph was betrothed, or engaged, to Mary. They would soon be married but were waiting until after the wedding to live together as husband and wife. Being betrothed was like making an important promise to each other.

When Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby, he was very sad because he thought Mary had broken her promise. The Bible says Joseph was a just man. He wanted to do the right thing, but he cared about Mary and didn't want her to get into trouble. So Joseph thought he would divorce Mary quietly and break off their engagement.

Matthew 1:20–21

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out what Joseph did in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 1. Read verses 20–21.

When Joseph was thinking about divorcing Mary, who did God send to speak to him? An angel appeared in a dream.

What did the angel tell Joseph to do? Take Mary as his wife.

What did the angel explain about Mary's baby? He was from whom? The Holy Spirit.

What would Jesus do for his people? Save them from their sins.

Refer to the Flip Chart. When Joseph woke up, he trusted God and obeyed him. He took Mary as his wife and called Mary's son Jesus, just like the angel said.

We said earlier that obeying is very important—even for adults. What would have happened if Joseph had not obeyed? Many of the Old Testament promises wouldn't have happened! Think about it: if Joseph had divorced Mary, he wouldn't have taken her to Bethlehem. If Mary hadn't gone to Bethlehem, Jesus wouldn't have been born there, like it says in the book of Micah.

There are a lot of other things that would have gotten messed up if Joseph hadn't obeyed! But God sent an angel to change Joseph's decision about Mary, and he did obey.

Remember, God is sovereign; he's in control of everything. God had a plan from the beginning that he would send the Savior for sinners like you and me, and we can clearly see how he guided people and events to make it all happen just as he said.

K-1st Lesson

Introduction

Refer to Lesson 124 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we saw how God sent an angel messenger to make some exciting announcements. The angel Gabriel

announced to Zechariah that he would have a son who would be the messenger to come before the Messiah.

What was Zechariah told to name his son? John.

Then Gabriel announced to Mary that her son would be the Messiah, the one God had chosen to save sinners!

What did Gabriel say Mary's baby should be named? Jesus.

Back in the Old Testament, God told his people these two would come—the messenger and the Messiah—and now hundreds of years later, they were finally here.

Have the optional bag of treats ready.

To start today, we're going to play a quick obedience game. I will call on someone to come stand by me. The rest of you will help me decide on three things he must obey before he can sit back down. Ready? Choose a volunteer to stand beside you. Have the class help you decide on three actions for him to do. For example, you might say, "Student, you must spin around in a circle, squat down, then jump up and down three times." Have the class watch to see if he does everything you told him to. Make a checkmark on the board for each completed action. Optional: bring a bag of treats for the students to have after they complete all the actions then share with the rest of the class after the game is over.

You all did a great job obeying! As children, you hear about obedience a lot from your parents and teachers, but did you know obedience is just as important for adults?

The two adults God chose to be the parents of Jesus had to obey God or things could have been very different. We'll see today that both Mary and Joseph had obedient hearts toward God, even when they didn't understand how everything would work out. Let's take a closer look at the parents of Jesus.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

In the last lesson, the angel Gabriel visited Mary and announced the amazing news that she would be the mother of the Messiah. Mary told the angel that she would obey God.

Gabriel told Mary some other surprising news. Her cousin Elizabeth was also going to have a baby very soon. Elizabeth and Zechariah were quite old, and people that old don't usually have babies. So this baby was also a special miracle from God. After the angel left, Mary went to visit Elizabeth and Zechariah.

Luke 1:41–44

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's read Luke 1:41–44 to see what happened when Mary got there. Have the student with the Bible bring it up and open it to the sticky note. Read the verses.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, what did her baby do? (Verse 41)
Elizabeth's baby (John) leaped in her womb.

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Elizabeth's baby leaped with joy when he heard the voice of Mary.

Have any of you felt a baby move or kick inside a mother's belly?
Allow answers.

It's exciting to feel a little baby moving around. And we know that babies can kick and move when they hear voices before they're born.

Some people think babies aren't really alive yet until they're born. But that's not true. Unborn babies are fully human and alive inside their mother's womb (the part of a mother's belly where the baby grows). Human babies are made in the image of God, just like you and me. It is clear that, even though John wasn't born yet, he was a real live person who responded to what was happening around him.

What was so special about Mary that made John leap? What did Elizabeth call Mary, the mother of who? (Verse 43) My Lord.

Baby John leaped with joy when he heard Mary's voice because she was the mother of Jesus the Savior. And John was the one who would grow up to help people get their hearts ready for Jesus.

Luke 1:46–47

Mary sang a song of praise to God. Let's read the first part of Mary's song in Luke 1:46–47. Read the verses.

What is the first thing Mary said, "My soul what"? "My soul magnifies the Lord."

Magnify is another word for praise, so Mary was praising the Lord! Her song gives us a good idea of what kind of person she was. This shows us that Mary was humble. She didn't feel proud of herself for being chosen as the mother of the Savior. Instead, she praised God.

Mary sang about God's greatness and power. What word do we know that means God is all-powerful? Omnipotent.
She also sang of how God always keeps his promises, like sending a Savior. What word means God keeps his promises? Faithful.
God gave Mary the special honor of being the mother of Jesus. But does that mean Mary was perfect like God? Allow discussion.
Some people think Mary never sinned. But what does Mary call God in her song? Reread verse 47. Her Savior.

Mary knew that she was a sinner and needed a Savior, just like the rest of us. She was rejoicing and praising God because she knew the Savior was coming, and God had chosen her to be a part of his great promise.

Mary was ready to obey God and do what he said. And she was humble; she didn't think she was better than anyone else. She accepted the

responsibility God gave her and obeyed.

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Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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