



### 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.

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.

#### 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 to Mary. That means they were engaged to be married but were waiting

until after the wedding ceremony to be 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 obedience 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.





Elizabeth's  
baby leaped  
for joy.



Mary and Joseph obeyed God.