

Monologue – Mary, Jesus' mother

Hello, everyone! How are you? It's so exciting to see you all here! My name is Mary. Now, I think you're going to meet lots of people called Mary at **Deep Sea Divers**, so you might need to remember who we all are. I'm Mary and I'm a mum. You might have heard of one of my children: well, he's my eldest. He's called Jesus.

If you've never heard of Jesus, don't worry, because I'm here to tell you all about him. His life has been very unusual, and it all started even before he was born. *(She picks up the angel left by Flotsam and Jetsam.)* Oh! Look at this! An angel. This reminds me how Jesus' birth came about.

You see, I was engaged to be married to a man called Joseph. But before we got married, I found out that I was going to have a baby. And not just any old baby. This baby was from God – he was God's Son.

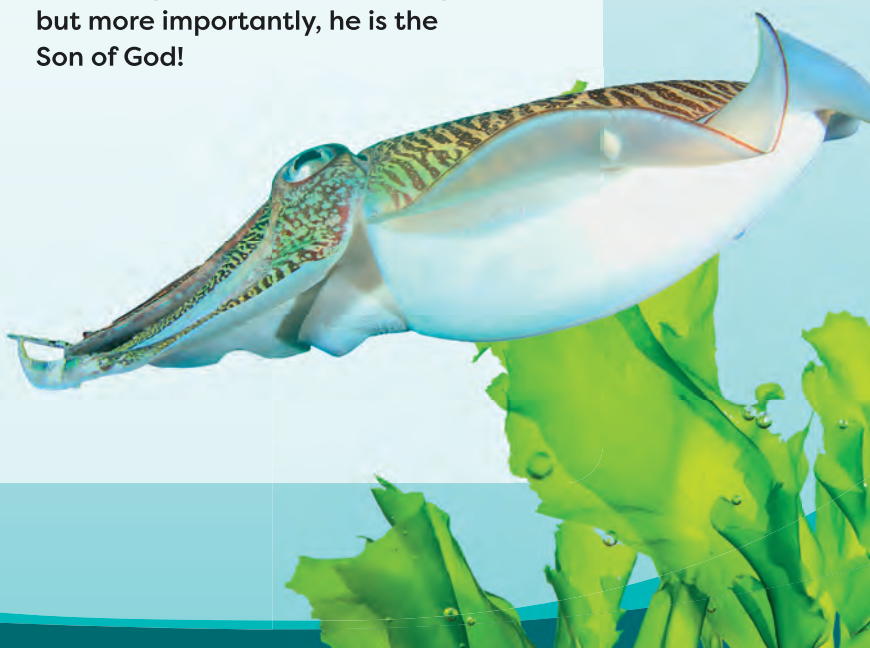
Well, when I found that out, I was bowled over. I couldn't believe it. You see, years and years ago, God had promised that he would send a special person to mend the friendship between God and his people. And now, this baby was going to be that special person.

But! And this is a big but! When I was young, if you had a baby without actually being married, you could be punished, and the punishment was really bad. Joseph realised that the baby wasn't his, and he decided to call everything off, but quietly, because he didn't want anything to happen to me. While Joseph was thinking about cancelling our wedding plans, an angel came to him in a dream. Yes, an angel! The angel told Joseph that the baby was from God and that he should go ahead and marry me. And that he should call the baby Jesus. That means, 'God saves'.

So, we grew up, this little family, and Jesus grew up too! When he was about 30 years old, it was time for him to take on the work that God had for him to do. One day he went to a river, called the River Jordan, where his cousin John was telling everyone to get ready. John was telling the people that God's rescue plan was about to start and they had to say sorry to God for going their own way and turning their backs on God's friendship. He was baptising people in the river. That means he was dipping them into the river as a sign that they had been washed clean – they were now ready to come back to God!

Jesus went to John and asked him to baptise him too. John was a bit confused, because Jesus is the Son of God and didn't have anything he needed to say sorry to God for and his relationship with God was still perfect. So he didn't need to be washed clean. But, John did what Jesus asked, and when Jesus came out of the water again, the sky opened! A dove flew down and rested on Jesus. *(She notices the white feather left by Flotsam and Jetsam, and picks it up.)* It was a dove with feathers like this! But it wasn't just a dove; it was the Spirit of God. And then a voice from heaven said: 'This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him.' It was God the Father!

So there you have it. Jesus is my son... but more importantly, he is the Son of God!



Monologue – Asher, the man who couldn't walk

Hello! My name is Asher. And I've got a great story to tell you! It's a true story as well. How do I know it's true? Because it happened to me!

You see, my life hasn't been easy. My legs didn't work properly and I couldn't walk. And that made life very difficult. *(He notices the piece of wood left by Flotsam and Jetsam.)* Oh, look at this! Some people could walk around using a walking stick like this one, but I couldn't. *(He demonstrates walking with a stick.)*

It wasn't like here, now, where you can live a normal life, regardless of any disabilities you might have. Where I come from, people treated you like you weren't there. I couldn't do any work. The only thing I could do was lie there and beg for money on the street.

But, one thing I do have is great friends. I live by a big lake. It's so big, some people say that it's a sea. And my friends heard that someone special – Jesus – had just crossed the lake and come to our town. They had heard lots of stories of Jesus making people well again, including people who couldn't walk. People like me.

So, they found out where Jesus was, and they carried me there on a mat. *(He notices the beach towel left by Flotsam and Jetsam.)* It was something like this! My friends each took a corner and took me to Jesus!

They knew that Jesus could make me better. So, there I was, lying in front of Jesus. But he didn't touch my legs or say any magic words to make my legs start working. He gave my friends a look, like they'd done something really special, and then said to me, 'My friend, your sins are forgiven.'

There was a shocked silence, and then I could hear some grumbling and muttering. I looked over and there were

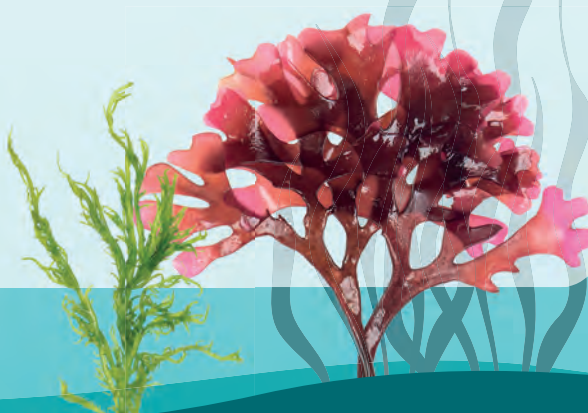
some important men – religious experts who think they know everything – and they looked angry. I could just make out what one of them was saying. It was something like, 'Jesus must think he is God!'

Jesus turned to them. He seemed to know exactly what they were saying, and he said, 'Why are you thinking such evil things? Is it easier for me to tell this man that his sins are forgiven or to tell him to get up and walk? But I will show you that the Son of Man has the right to forgive sins here on earth.'

Then he turned to me and he said, 'Get up! Pick up your mat and go on home!' I was a bit shocked, but also a bit excited. I stretched my legs and I realised I could move them on my own. Slowly, I got up and... I could walk! So I picked up my mat – I didn't need it any more. *(He rolls up the beach towel and tucks it under his arms.)* And I certainly didn't need a walking stick! *(He puts the stick back down where he found it.)*

I and my friends went home. Well, we ran, we danced, we hopped, we jumped, we skipped... Jesus had made my legs work!

But he had also forgiven my sins – you know, the fact that I had ignored God and was choosing to live my own way. I was separate from my Creator God and I was lost, and most of the things I had done and thought just weren't right. I'm not sure what that all means. Is Jesus God? He called himself the Son of Man: that sounds important. What I do know is that Jesus must be very special.



Additional Dive A Monologue – Thaddeus

Hello! How are you all? Having a good time at Deep Sea Divers? It's great here, isn't it? I haven't had this much fun since Jesus' marathon storytelling session. Oh! Let me introduce myself. I'm Thaddeus. Yes, a bit of weird name, but not the strangest I've ever heard. I was one of Jesus' team. Jesus picked a group of 12 of us to follow him and be taught by him. We were called the disciples.

We went everywhere with him. We travelled all the way down to Jerusalem, the capital city. We walked along the banks of the great river Jordan. We sailed across the giant lake called Galilee. One day, Jesus walked out to the beach next to Lake Galilee and he sat down to teach. A huge crowd gathered around him to listen.

Jesus started telling stories. Sometimes we called these stories parables. They could be stories about fish, seeds, coins or sheep. But they weren't actually stories about fish, seeds, coins or sheep. There were other meanings to the story. The longer you thought about Jesus' stories, the more hidden meanings you could discover.

As he sat on the beach, he told the people stories about wheat and weeds. Then he went back to his house and all of us – Jesus' disciples – followed. We asked him to explain what the stories meant. So he did, and then he told us more stories, about fishing nets and treasure. (*He finds the treasure box left by Flotsam and Jetsam.*) Oh! Look at this! This is just like the treasure Jesus was talking about! And he told us one about pearls.

Do you know what pearls are? They are small and round and shiny and white. (*He finds the pearl left by Flotsam*

and Jetsam.) Oh, a bit like this one! (*He shows it to the Divers.*) They are very precious – people wear them as jewellery. They grow inside the shells of creatures that live in the sea, creatures like oysters.

The story about pearls is my favourite, let me tell it to you now:

'The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a buyer and seller of pearls – a merchant – goes looking for special pearls. When he finds a very valuable one, he goes and sells everything he owns so that he can buy the pearl.'

And that's it. It's only short, but it's a great story and it made me think so much about what Jesus meant. What made that pearl so special? Does this merchant have nothing except this pearl? Where's he going to sleep? What is he going to wear? And what is the hidden meaning? What does the pearl represent? Am I in this story?

I wonder what you think. Maybe you have some ideas about what Jesus was teaching us through this story...



Additional Dive 8 Monologue – Bartholomew

Hello! Wow! What an exciting place this looks. Are you having a good time at **Deep Sea Divers**? Look at all these sea creatures! This all reminds me about a time when I was sailing on the sea.

Oh, I should introduce myself. My name is Bartholomew. I was one of Jesus' 12 followers. You might have already met a friend of mine, Thaddeus. Yes, I thought his name was weird too. If you don't know, Jesus chose 12 people to follow him and be taught by him. We were called the disciples.

Well, we sailed on this huge lake called Galilee all the time. It was so big that some people called it a sea. But there was this one time that sticks in my memory. We had just seen Jesus do something absolutely amazing. He had fed a huge crowd – it could have been as many as twenty thousand people. I'm not sure, I'm not very good with numbers. Anyway, he fed this vast group of people with just five small loaves of bread and two fish.

Sorry! Getting side-tracked! Back to the story I was going to tell. It was almost dark when Jesus made us all get into a boat and set out across the lake. Oh! Here's a boat. *(He picks up the toy boat left behind by Flotsam and Jetsam.)* Well, ours wasn't like this; it was made of wood and was made to be a fishing boat. Anyway, Jesus went up a mountain so that he could be on his own while we sailed off. People followed us everywhere we went, and Jesus talked to them, healed them and told them all about God. He liked to get away every now and again to spend time with his Father. You see, Jesus is the Son of God.

We were quite a long way out onto the lake when the wind got up. It got stronger and stronger, and the boat was

going up and down and side to side. The night seemed to last forever; I felt seasick for hours!

(He sees the sandal and picks it up.) Hey! This is like the sandals we wore when we were walking everywhere with Jesus. Well, the next part of the story is about walking, but not the kind of walking you're familiar with.

Then, just before dawn, we saw this figure coming towards us on the water. Thaddeus thought it was a ghost and we started screaming. It had been a long and difficult night and we were all terrified!

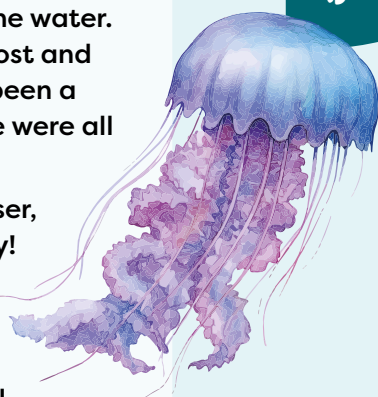
But then, as the figure got closer, we heard it speak: 'Don't worry! I'm Jesus! Don't be afraid.'

We couldn't believe it. Jesus was walking on the water! Well, while we were all trying to take in what was happening, one of the disciples, called Peter, said, 'Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you on the water.'

'Come on, then!' said Jesus. Peter got out and he started walking on the water too! We were all shocked, and I think Thaddeus was still screaming. But then Peter saw how big the waves were and he got scared. He started to sink and cried out to Jesus to save him.

Jesus reached out his hand and said, 'You don't have much faith, why do you doubt?'

Peter and Jesus got into the boat and the wind died down. I can tell you, we all learned something that night. I learned that I get very seasick. But more importantly, we learned that Jesus really is the Son of God!



Dialogue – Mary and Mary Magdalene

Mary: Oh hello! Mary! Mary! Come and say hello to everyone!

Mary M: What's that, Mary? Oh, hello, everyone! My name is Mary.

Mary: And so is mine.

Mary M: Sometimes I'm called Mary Magdalene.

Mary: You might have met another Mary here; she was Jesus' mother.

Mary M: There are so many people called Mary, aren't there, Mary?

Mary: Yes, Mary. It can get quite confusing.

Mary M: Well, we have a confusing story to tell you, don't we, Mary?

Mary: Confusing, but exciting and, I think, very important.

Mary M: Yes, Mary. Very important. Do you want to start?

Mary: Thank you, Mary, I do. Now, Divers, you've heard some stories about Jesus already, haven't you? Well, this is the worst and the best story about Jesus. You see, there were lots of people who loved Jesus, people like me and Mary here. He had done some amazing things and told us some wonderful things.

But there were some people who didn't like Jesus. They were important people – people who thought they knew everything about God and his Laws. They didn't like the fact that Jesus was popular. They didn't like the fact that Jesus knew more than they did. They didn't like the fact that Jesus said he was the Son of God.

Mary M: But he is the Son of God, Mary.

Mary: Yes, Mary, he is. And these important people didn't like it. They didn't like Jesus for lots of reasons – because he was changing things, because they were losing the power

they had over the people, because they thought they knew more about God than anyone. So, these people plotted against Jesus. They persuaded one of Jesus' group of followers, a man called Judas, to betray Jesus.

They arrested Jesus and told the man in charge of Jerusalem, the Roman governor called Pilate, that Jesus had done terrible things.

Mary M: But he didn't do terrible things, Mary.

Mary: No, he didn't, Mary. And Pilate knew it was all lies. But he was worried. The important people had told lies all over Jerusalem. They were causing chaos and now there was a big crowd shouting and screaming. He thought there was going to be a riot. And so he decided that Jesus should be put to death.

Mary M: Oh, Mary, it was awful!

Mary: Yes, Mary. I was so sad and upset. Some soldiers took Jesus away. They beat him and made fun of him. Then they led him to a place outside the city walls and they nailed him to a cross.

Mary M: Look at this, Mary. (*She picks up the driftwood cross.*) This looks a bit like the cross the soldiers used.

Mary: (*Sadly taking it from her.*) Ah yes, Mary, it does. (*They both sigh and pause.*) When Jesus was on the cross, all Jesus' group of followers ran away, but we couldn't leave, could we, Mary?

Mary M: No, Mary. We stayed with Jesus.

Mary: Well, Jesus died. (*She pauses.*) One of our friends called Joseph got permission to take him down from the cross. We carried his body to a

tomb that Joseph owned, put him inside and then rolled a huge stone across the entrance.

Mary M: Mary, you said that this story was the worst and the best story about Jesus. We've told the Divers the worst part. Surely it's time for the best part?

Mary: All right, Mary, I'm getting to it! Well, it was a bit of a rush putting Jesus into the tomb, and we weren't able to come back until two days later. So, I and Mary here went back to prepare Jesus' body properly. We had taken some spices to make him smell beautiful. (*She notices the old jar where Flotsam and Jetsam left it.*) Oh, this was like the jar my spices were in!

Mary M: Oh yes, Mary, mine too! (*She smells the jar and wrinkles her nose.*) Mm, but my jar smelled different from that. This one has a whiff of the sea, Mary.

Mary: (*Smelling the jar.*) Yes, Mary. This smells more like seaweed. Well, as soon as we got to the tomb with our spices, there was an earthquake!

Mary M: Everything was shaking, Mary. I was terrified!

Mary: So was I, Mary! And that wasn't the only scary thing. Suddenly an angel appeared, bright and shining and brilliant. The soldiers guarding the tomb fainted! The angel said to us, 'Don't be afraid! I know you're looking for Jesus. He isn't here. God has made him come alive again. Go and tell Jesus' friends that he is alive!'

We looked into the tomb and it was empty! So we set off, scared and happy at the same time, to tell Jesus' group of followers what we had seen. And then we met him, didn't we, Mary?

Mary M: Yes, Mary. We met Jesus. And he was alive!

