

Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-24

MAIN POINT: God chose a family for Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 4:4-5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.

**LARGE GROUP
WORSHIP
(15–20 MINUTES)
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**SMALL GROUP
ACTIVITIES
(25–30 MINUTES)
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**LARGE GROUP
CLOSING
(10+ MINUTES)
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

People had been waiting a long time for Jesus. God hinted at His coming in the garden of Eden when He promised a seed to conquer the serpent. (Gen. 3:15) The prophets told of His coming hundreds of years before His birth. God was working out His plan to bring His people back to Himself.

In the Bible, God sometimes used angels to communicate His message to people. Angels spoke to Abraham in Genesis 18. The Angel of the Lord spoke to Balaam in

Numbers 22. Now Mary and Joseph, the earthly parents of Jesus, each received a special visit from an angel to announce the birth of God's promised Messiah.

The angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary surprised her. By His grace, God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus. The angel's message revealed much about this promised child.

First, He would be great in both being and nature. He would be the Son of the Most High. Jesus is the Son of God, and the Lord God promised to give Him the throne of His father David. These words fulfilled the prophecy given to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16. He would reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom would have no end.

The good news that Jesus was coming into the world was good news because of why He was coming. An angel revealed Jesus' purpose to Joseph in Matthew 1:21, "He will save His people from their sins." The gospel is the good news of what God has done for us through Christ.

The announcement of Jesus' birth is not the beginning of the gospel; God had been planning for this moment since before the beginning of time. (See Eph. 1:3-10.) Help the preschoolers you teach understand that God's plan has always been to save sinners and bring them back to Himself. Jesus, whose name means "Yahweh saves," is the culmination of that plan.



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

The BIBLE STORY

Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph

Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-24

One day, God sent an angel named Gabriel to a town called Nazareth. The angel went to visit a young woman named Mary. Mary was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.

The angel said to Mary, "God is happy with you! He is with you." Mary was afraid and unsure. Why would God be happy with her? She had done nothing special.

"Do not be afraid," the angel said. He told Mary that she was going to have a very special baby. The baby's name would be Jesus.

Mary asked the angel, "How can that happen?"

The angel said, "God will be the father of the baby. The baby will be God's Son."

Then the angel said, "God can do anything!" **He told Mary that her relative Elizabeth was pregnant, even though she was old and did not have any children.**

"May everything happen just as you said," Mary said. Then the angel left.

Mary hurried to Elizabeth's house. When she arrived, the baby inside Elizabeth leaped for joy! The Holy Spirit filled Elizabeth and she said, "What an honor, Mary! You and your baby will be blessed!"

Mary was so happy. She **praised God with a song about how great God is.** Mary knew families in the future would say she was blessed because God was going to do great things through Jesus. God had kept His promise to Abraham to bless the whole world through Jesus. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. Then she went home.

Joseph found out Mary was going to have a baby, but Joseph knew it was not his baby; Mary and Joseph were not married yet! Soon after Joseph thought these things, an angel appeared to him in a dream.

“Joseph!” the angel said. “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. Mary is going to have a son. Name Him Jesus because He is going to save His people from their sins!”

When Joseph woke up, he did just what the angel said. He married Mary, and when she had a son, Joseph named Him Jesus.

Christ Connection: Many of God's prophets talked about Jesus before He was born. Everything they said about Jesus came true. Before God created the world, He planned to send Jesus. Jesus came to do God's plan, to rescue people from sin.

Large Group WORSHIP

SESSION TITLE: Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph

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Welcome and worship with song

- “Joy to the World” song
- “Celebrate (Ring the Bells)” song

Welcome preschoolers to worship by playing “Joy to the World.” Greet preschoolers with a smile. When all the preschoolers have arrived, sing an upbeat song such as “Celebrate (Ring the Bells)” to engage them and help them feel welcomed.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- “Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Briefly explain that you will return to the other Bible stories after Christmas is over.

SAY • The Bible is God’s words. The Bible tells us in the Old Testament that God was going to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. The Bible tells us in the New Testament that Jesus was born as a baby, He grew up and never disobeyed God, and He died on the cross and rose again so we can be forgiven of our sins. In today’s Bible story, we’re going to learn about God’s plan for Jesus’ birth.

Open your Bible to Luke 1 or Matthew 1. Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the script provided, or show the video. Read the bolded version of the script for younger preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Place a Bible marker or ribbon at Galatians 4:4-5. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage twice.

SAY • God sent Jesus at just the right time to rescue us from sin. Anyone who trusts in Jesus to forgive him will have life forever with God.

Sing the key passage song “Adoption As Sons” together.

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Bible marker or ribbon
- “Adoption As Sons” song

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Our big picture question is, *Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.* From the very beginning of creation, God planned to send Jesus to rescue His people from sin.

- Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • Angels had a special message for Mary and Joseph. **God chose a family for Jesus.** God’s prophets talked about Jesus before He was born. Everything they said about Jesus came true. Before God created the world, He planned to send Jesus. Jesus came to do God’s plan, to rescue people from sin.

Sing “Joy to the World” and “Angel’s Lullaby” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Let Us Adore Him.” You may also collect an offering. Pray for the children.

SAY • God, thank You for Your good plan to rescue us.
Thank You for sending Jesus to save us from our sin.
Thank You for always being wise and good. Amen.

- Main Point Poster
- “Joy to the World” song
- “Angel’s Lullaby” song
- “Let Us Adore Him” song
- offering basket

Transition to small groups

- countdown video (optional)

Small Group ACTIVITIES

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Play “Mary, Mary, Joseph”

Play “Duck, Duck, Goose” according to traditional rules, but preschoolers will say “Mary, Mary, Joseph” instead. The child who gets tagged on “Joseph” will jump up and chase the tagger. Play until each child has a chance to tag or be tagged.

SAY • God chose a family for Jesus. God wanted Jesus to come to earth as a tiny baby. Jesus needed a mom and dad to take care of Him. God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus’ family. God’s prophets said that Jesus would be God’s Son. Everything they said about Jesus came true.

Craft stick puppets

- large craft sticks, 1 per child
- construction paper
- glue
- googly eyes
- yarn
- markers

Provide a large craft stick for each preschooler. Invite preschoolers to use various craft items to make Mary and Joseph stick puppets. It may be helpful to demonstrate as you make your own puppets with younger preschoolers. Invite children to play out the Bible story when they have finished making puppets.

SAY • God chose a family for Jesus. God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus’ parents on earth. Before God created the world, He planned to send Jesus. Jesus came to do God’s plan, to rescue people from sin.

Work puzzles

Give preschoolers a giant floor puzzle to work together, but hide one piece. Once children have completed as much of the puzzle as they can, provide the missing piece “at just the right time.”

SAY • God’s prophets talked about Jesus before He was born. Everything they said about Jesus came true.

God chose a family for Jesus when He sent Jesus to earth as a baby at just the right time. Jesus came to do God’s plan, to rescue people from sin.

- giant floor puzzle

Tip: If you don’t have a large puzzle children can work together, separate the children into smaller groups of three or four.

Sing a song about Jesus

Sing a familiar Christmas tune that centers around Jesus’ birth, such as “Joy to the World” or “Away in a Manger.” Invite children to sing and perform simple hand motions with you.

SAY • **God chose a family for Jesus** when He came to earth. God’s prophets talked about Jesus before His birth. Everything they said about Jesus came true.

- “Joy to the World” song (optional)

Talk about families

Invite all of the preschoolers to sit on their knees. Explain that you are going to call out a family member (father, mother, sister, brother, grandma, grandpa, aunt, uncle). If children live with that family member, they will stand on their knees. Mention that families look different.

SAY • **God chose a family for Jesus.** Before God created the world, He planned to send Jesus. Jesus came to do God’s plan, to rescue people from sin.

Tip: Be sensitive to each child’s family situation. Remind preschoolers that God made families so people could be loved and cared for.

Transition to large group closing

- countdown video (optional)

Large Group CLOSING

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Review

Point to the Bible story picture as you briefly review the Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "Adoption As Sons" song
- "Joy to the World" song

1. Whom did God choose to be Jesus' mom? (*Mary*)
2. What did the baby inside Elizabeth do when Mary arrived at Elizabeth's house? (*leaped for joy*)
3. Whom did God choose to be Jesus' dad on earth? (*Joseph*)
4. Who is Jesus' Father? (*God*)
5. ***Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.***

SAY • God chose a family for Jesus. God's prophets talked about Jesus before He was born. Everything they said about Jesus came true. Before God created the world, He planned to send Jesus. Jesus came to do God's plan, to rescue people from sin.

Sing the key passage song or unit theme song.

Pray

Remind the children that Mary sang a special song to praise God for the good things He was going to do by sending Jesus. Remind children that God always listens when we pray to Him.

SAY • Dear God, thank You for choosing a family for Jesus. Thank You for sending Him to rescue us and for

always keeping Your promises. Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, introduce the activity and talk about the reasons for it. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how Christmas is the perfect time to tell people about God's plan to send Jesus to rescue us from sin. You may also show the "Coffee and Tea" missions video.

• "Coffee and Tea"
missions video

Give preschoolers
the Czech Republic
prayer cards to take
home this week.

SAY • God showed missionary Brian McClure the truth that He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue His people. Brian went to Prague, a city in the Czech Republic, to tell other people this amazing truth and to show the people how much God loves them. One of the ways he does this is by handing out coffee, tea, and water once a week. This gives him and his team a chance to tell people the good news that Jesus came to rescue them.

Invite children to pray for Brian and others to share the gospel with people in Czech Republic. Pray for preschoolers to tell others about Jesus here at home.

Big picture question buzz

Invite the preschoolers to stand in a circle. Instruct each child to say one word from the big picture question, ***Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.*** The next child after *us* must say *BUZZ* and then sit down. Continue until only one child is standing. Repeat as desired.

SAY • **God chose a family for Jesus.** Before God created the world, He planned to send Jesus. Jesus came to do God's plan, to rescue people from sin.

Journal Page

Christmas

Key Passage: Galatians 4:4-5

Big Picture Question: Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.

Session 1: Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph
Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-24
God chose a family for Jesus.

Session 2: Jesus Was Born
Luke 2:1-20
Jesus was born as God promised.

Session 3: Wise Men Visited Jesus
Matthew 2:1-21
The wise men worshiped Jesus.





God sent his Son
... to redeem
those under
the law.

Galatians 4:4-5





God sent forth his
Son ... To redeem
them that were
under the law.

Galatians 4:4-5





God sent His Son
... to redeem
those under
the law.

Galatians 4:4-5





God sent forth his
Son ... to redeem
those who were
under the law.

Galatians 4:4-5



God chose a
family for Jesus.



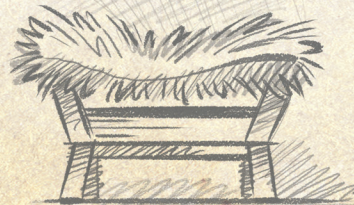


Why was Jesus born?



Why was Jesus born?

Jesus was born
to rescue us.



LONDON, ENGLAND

London is the capital and largest city in England, often called the “capital of the world.” More than 13.6 million people live in the London metropolitan area, and many of those people have moved to London from cities all over the world. More than 300 languages are spoken in the greater London area. In such a large, multi-cultural city, missionaries have a huge task of spreading the good news about Jesus. Pray for missionaries in London as they share the gospel with people from all over the world in one huge city.



ICELAND

Iceland is a Nordic island country located between the North Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic Ocean. Iceland is home to roughly 329,000 people. The capital and largest city is Reykjavik (RAYK-yuh-VIK). Iceland has active volcanoes, and Iceland experienced volcanic eruptions in March and April 2010 as well as May 2011. Although roughly 70% of Iceland’s population say they are Christians, only 10% of Icelanders attend church at least once a month. Pray for missionaries serving in Iceland to bring the gospel to the people of Iceland. Pray that they will equip Icelandic Christians to meet and worship Jesus together.



SCOTLAND

Scotland is a country in the United Kingdom. Located north of England, Scotland is home to roughly 5 million people. Though roughly 53% of the people say they are Christians, 43% of the people do not follow any religion. Missionaries like Gena Wilson are taking the gospel to areas of Scotland where the gospel is not welcome. Missionary families like Gena, TJ, and Eli Odom are reaching out to their community in Scotland through events. Pray for missionaries in Scotland to share the good news about Jesus.



CZECH REPUBLIC (pronounced CHECK)

The Czech Republic is a country in Central Europe with Germany to the west, Austria to the south, Slovakia to the southeast, and Poland to the northeast. Czech Republic was originally part of a country called Czechoslovakia after World War I. After World War II, Czechoslovakia became part of the Soviet Union. In January 1993, Czechoslovakia peacefully divided and became two distinct countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Roughly 10.5 million people live in Czech Republic, but the majority of the people do not believe that God is real. Many have heard of Jesus, but they choose not to follow Him. Missionaries like the Johnson family build relationships with Czech families so they can tell them about Jesus. Pray for the Johnsons’ family camp outreach so they can tell kids and their families the good news about Jesus.

