

Lesson 11: Advent II - The Angel visits Mary

Goal: The children will know

- that “advent” means the coming of Jesus Christ
- the Gospel of Luke Chapter 1, tells of Gabriel’s visit to Mary
- that the Advent season is all about celebrating and rejoicing in the coming of the Jesus Christ, our Hope, who brings forgiveness and righteousness

Supplies: A Christmas gift box with different Christmas decorations: lights, ornaments, a small tree, a wreath, a wrapped gift...make sure there is nothing in the box that has to do with Christ’s birth

Resource: JSB pgs. 176 - 179

Today’s Scripture:

Jesus is Born of Mary

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Luke 1:30,31

Instruction (10 min)

This is such a wonderful time of the year! Everywhere we go there are lights and decorations. “Jingle Bells” is playing on the radio and in the stores. One of my favorite things to do is to pull out my Christmas boxes and start going through my Christmas goodies.

Pull out the Christmas box and start going through it. Do you have some of these things in your house? Here are some bells ...and ornaments... a wreath...wrapped gifts that we put under a tree...here is a Christmas tree. The tree at my house is a live tree with lights all over it. Here are some lights...how many of you have lights on your house? I like to ride around the neighborhood and look at the lights at night.

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Did you notice that something was missing from my box? I have all these things to help me decorate my house and my tree, but there is nothing in this box that tells me what Christmas is all about. Can anyone tell me what is missing?

That's right, there is nothing in this box that tells me about Jesus. While all of the decorations are fun and beautiful, it's very important that we remember that Jesus is what this season is all about.

We call this season "Advent." You will hear the word "advent" in church a lot for the next few weeks. Advent means the coming of Jesus Christ. The coming of Jesus Christ is so important that every year in our church, we spend a whole month remembering all about what happened that lead up to Jesus being born and about the days and early years after his birth.

Why do you think it is so important that we remember Jesus' birth? What is the big deal about Jesus being born? *Pause and let them think about this. Let them offer ideas.*

Remember from our Church School lessons from the last weeks:

Can God, who is holy, have anything sinful with Him in heaven? *No*

Have ALL men, women and children sinned? *Yes*

So by ourselves, can we get into heaven? *No, because we have sinned*

What do we deserve because we have sinned? *Death, separation from God*

What do we need to get into heaven? *Our sins forgiven and perfect obedience to God's Word*

Who is the only One who can forgive sin? *God*

Who is the only man who has ever been born that lived in perfect obedience to God's Word? *Jesus*

So, in order to have our sins forgiven, we need someone who is God, so he can forgive our sin, and we need someone who is a man and lived a perfect life so that it can be given to us. How many persons who have ever been born were 100% God and 100% man? *Only Jesus*

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So children, can you see how important Jesus birth is? Without Jesus being born, we have no hope for having our sins forgiven and for our having the perfect righteousness we need to be with God in heaven. Only Jesus can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves, only Jesus, and how wonderful it is that He was willing to come to earth and do this for us! We should be so happy that Jesus was born. Because He was born, if we have faith in Him, we will live with God forever! Celebrating the coming of Christ in Advent deserves at least a month to celebrate if you ask me!

So lets remember what happened in real life that led up to Jesus' birth. Let's learn a little about Mary. Mary and Joseph were not married yet, they were just engaged, so they had not lived together as husband and wife. They were promised to one another.

People got married pretty young back then. Mary was a young teenager when one night, an Angel whose name was Gabriel appeared before her. It must have been breathtaking. Angels are magnificent, and often have to appear to humans in a human-like form to keep them from being overwhelmed with their true magnificence. In fact, the next thing he said to her was, "Fear not, Mary..." Gabriel told her that she was highly favored by God, that the Lord was with her and that He has chosen to bless her more than any other woman who had ever been born. You can imagine that this was very confusing to Mary. How was she going to be blessed? What did it mean that God had highly favored her? The Angel Gabriel told her again that God had chosen her for something very, very special. She was going to be the one through whom the God/Man that everyone had been waiting for all these years was going to be born. It had been prophesied for thousands of years, ever since Adam sinned, that God would not leave man in that sinful condition. Even in the Garden of Eden, God promised that through a woman, a child would be born who would save His people from their sins. All of the sacrifices that were offered throughout those thousands of years were all pointing to this child who would be born of a woman, live and then die a sacrificial death to save them from their sins. All of her life, Mary had learned these things, and then...right before her...was an Angel, telling her that SHE was the woman who was to bring forth this child! How amazing! The Angel Gabriel said:

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son,

and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. (Luke 1: 31-33)

So Mary was going to be pregnant with a child and give birth and when he is born, she is to name him, Jesus. He is going to be great, in fact, he will be the "Son of the Highest" that means he is the son of God Himself. And because he is the very son of God Himself, he is going to be the King of all the earth, and His kingdom will never end. He will reign in His kingdom forever.

That was a lot for Mary to take in! She asked the Angel Gabriel a very practical question, "How is this going to happen?"

Listen to the answer from Holy Scripture in Luke 1: 35: And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee...

Remember the Apostles Creed? Let's say the first part together:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost...

Stop there. That's what the Angel told her. The Holy Spirit was going to come upon her and form Jesus in her womb. Jesus' real father was not Joseph. Joseph was his step father. Jesus has a human mother, but he has no human father. Jesus' father is God Himself. Remember that there are three persons in the Godhead. The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Jesus is God the Son and so he has always existed. But he has not always had a human body and a soul like men. Jesus was given a human body and soul like you and me when God the Holy Spirit came upon Mary and formed a human body and soul for Jesus inside of her womb.

We have a special word for the Son of God taking on a human body and soul in the womb of Mary. That word is Incarnation. Jesus is the Incarnate Son of God. Jesus is the Incarnate Word of God. In the Incarnation, God has become Man, to become the Saviour of Mankind.

This must have been very overwhelming to Mary. She was a young maiden and she was going to have a baby. Not just any baby, but the long awaited Savior, the Son of the True and Living God. So how did she respond? The Bible tells us in Luke 1: 38: "And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." She was completely submissive to the will of God. She was willing to do whatever He thought was best. She said, "Here I am, your willing servant. Whatever you want me to do, just say so, and I will do it." She loved God so much and trusted Him completely to be doing the right thing. Her faith and obedience to God's word made her the right person to give birth to the Word made flesh, the incarnate Son of God, and to bring the Saviour of the world into the world.

Remember, she was not too much older than you! You need to be like that when God speaks to you from His Word. We all need to be willing to obey whatever God's Word says, even if we are scared or we don't understand completely. Mary did not understand all that was going to happen. She was probably scared about what was going to happen. But she knew that she belonged to God and that He would take care of her. You belong to God. You need to trust Him too. And when you do, like Mary, then Christ will come to be your Saviour.

So this Advent season, remember to thank God every day that Jesus came into the world and took on flesh, becoming the God/Man. He is our only hope for having our sins forgiven. Think of ways that you can be sure that His Coming is at the center of your celebration.

Let's pray...

PRAYER TIME (1 min)

Dear Lord, we are so grateful that you would send Jesus to be born a man so he could save us from our sins. Thank you for Mary, who was so willing to do what you asked of her. Help us to be willing to do all you ask of us. We want to serve You, too. And help us to find ways to remember Jesus all through this Advent season. Help us to enjoy all of the fun and decorations, but to remember what is most important, that this Advent season is all about Jesus coming. In His Name we pray. AMEN

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ACTIVITY TIME (15 min)

Supplies:

013 Scroll Template with the Printed Scripture Verse Luke 1: 30, 31 printed on

parchment paper or tan paper (template makes three scrolls)

Card stock for backing if necessary cut to cover the verse on back

A pencil for rolling

Red ribbon for hanging

Decorative holly and leaves or such

Glue

1. Give each child one verse strip. Have them crinkle up the paper and then smooth it out to make it look old. They can also carefully tear the edges if they want
2. Curl the ends around the pencil stopping right before the verse edge. Glue the curled ends of the paper to keep it from uncurling.
3. Glue the ribbon behind each scroll curl
4. Glue the card stock backing and write the Name AND YEAR (how many crafts do we have that only have the child's name but no year so we can't figure out how old they were when they made it ☺)
5. Glue decorative leaves etc.

