



# Mary's Praise

Story time

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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**Story topic:** Mary answered God with praise and a peaceful heart.

**Bible Passage:** Luke 1:26-38, 46-47



ORIGINAL STORY

One day God sent an angel to visit a young virgin named Mary. The angel told Mary that she would have a baby. Mary was very surprised and said, "How can this happen? I have never been with a man." The angel told Mary that she would have a baby because God had chosen her to be the mother of Jesus. Mary answered the angel with praise and a peaceful heart.

Family Discussion Starter:

1. What did the angel say to Mary? Why would he say that?
2. How did Mary praise God? (Luke 1:46-47)
3. Share about a difficult thing God asked you to do. How did God help you with the task?

Lent!

This is the branch of the Isaiah God the Father uses of crosses.

For everything was created by him.

In Him, God can create, but He cannot die the Isaiah.

Colossians 1:16-17

# leader bible study

People had been waiting a long time for Jesus. 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.

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 directly fulfilled the prophecy given to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16. He would reign and His kingdom would have no end. The news that Jesus was coming into the world was good news because of why He was coming. An angel also revealed Jesus' purpose, fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, to Joseph, "He will save His people from their sins." Jesus is more than a savior, He's an answer to promises, a connection to the Father, a visible form of our invisible God- He is **more!**

After the angel Gabriel told Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, was pregnant too, Mary hurried to see her. Mary traveled nearly one hundred miles to see Elizabeth, and her arrival brought great joy to both Elizabeth and Elizabeth's unborn baby. In the presence of the unborn Messiah, John leaped in Elizabeth's womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she said, "Mary, you are blessed!"

Mary's response to Gabriel's words and Elizabeth's declaration is marked by her trust in God. Mary's song of praise reflects her knowledge of God's Word and her understanding of who God is- His greatness and holiness along with an understanding of what Jesus means in terms of God's covenants and promises.

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. Mary worshiped God because the coming of the promised Savior was good news! As you teach, remind kids that people had been waiting hundreds of years for the Messiah and Jesus is the answer to the promise God made to His people.

**Vision for Grace Airways**  
We navigate the scriptures,  
training up bold disciples,  
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

## Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

### After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: \_\_\_\_\_

## December Focus: Advent



### Nov 30th: Isaiah's Plea *Isaiah 64:3-4, 8*

**Story point:** The prophets shared the hope that God had a plan to save His people.



### Dec 7th: Mary's Praise *Luke 1:26-38; 46-47*

**Story Point:** Mary answered God with praise and a peaceful heart.



### Dec 14th: Angels' and Shepherds' Praise *Luke 2:8-20;*

**Story Point:** The shepherds praised God after the angels Brought them the joyful news of Jesus.



### Dec 21st: Our Praise - Jesus' Birth *Luke 2:1-7, Col 1:15-23*

**Story Point:** Jesus loves us so much that He came to Earth to save us.



### Dec 28th: The Wisemen *Matt 2: 1-21*

**Story Point:** The Wisemen came to worship Jesus.



## Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?
- How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?
- What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?
- In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?

### Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

### Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with \_\_\_\_\_.
- You really helped me while I was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Thank you for being \_\_\_\_\_'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

### Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

## Sunday Morning Flight Plan



### Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPQ and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

### Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

### Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story (Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

### Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:  
Around 9:45

Second Service:  
Around 11:45



## 10 min Take Off

*Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.*

### Open in Prayer

#### Hook

When you hear the word peace, what kind of image do you see in your head? Words that describe peace might be tranquility, calmness, restfulness, and quietness. Today, we will hear how Mary was able to answer God with praise and peace.

#### Big Picture Question

When you listen to our Bible story today, I want you to keep an important question in mind: **How is Jesus the perfect Messiah?** Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

#### Key passage

Our key passage comes from the Bible and tells us about Jesus. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible..." Colossians 1:15-16a

#### Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

The timeline of Mary's life is a testament to her faith, obedience, and the role she played in God's redemptive plan. Mary was visited by the angel, Gabriel, announcing that she was to be the mother of God's Son, Jesus! After receiving this news, Mary visited Elizabeth, who was also pregnant with John the Baptist. Mary praised God! Nearing the end of her pregnancy, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem for the census, where she gave birth to Jesus. This fulfilled the prophecy of the coming Messiah!

Show the Bible Story Video or briefly summarize today's story. Each class will go more in depth during their Bible Story Time.



## 15 Min Journey

*Where we travel into God's word*

#### Bible Story

Open your Bible to **Luke 1:26-38, 46-47** Read from the Bible or use the story example to help you tell the story. Wrap up with the insights below.

The angel Gabriel came to Mary, a virgin to be married to a man named Joseph. The angel brought Mary the news from God about His promised Savior - Mary would give birth to a baby named Jesus, the Son of God! It might be easy to think how exciting this would be for Mary, however, this news was shocking and difficult too. Mary was not yet married. Many people would not believe that her baby was from God. Even though this would have been a scary time for Mary, she was at peace and wanted to do God's plan. She praised Him!

And Mary said:  
My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
because he has looked with favor  
Luke 1:46-47

Just like Mary, trusting in God and feeling at peace can sometimes be difficult. But when we trust and obey Him, we are glorifying God!



# Age Appropriate Story

## STORY POINT: MARY ANSWERED GOD WITH PRAISE AND A PEACEFUL HEART.

One day, God sent an angel named Gabriel to a town in Galilee called Nazareth. The angel went to visit a young virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to Joseph, a descendant of King David.

The angel said to Mary, "Rejoice! You have found favor with God. He is with you." Mary was very afraid and puzzled. Why would God find favor with her? She had done nothing special. The angel told Mary to not be afraid. He told Mary that she was going to have a very special and unique baby, and they would call the baby Jesus, which means, "the Lord saves." The angel explained that the baby would be great - He would be God's Son! He would even be a king - the King God had promised would come.



Mary asked the angel, "How can this happen? I am not married yet." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come, and a miracle will happen. The baby will be God's Son." The angel, Gabriel, told Mary, "Nothing will be impossible with God!" He told Mary that her relative Elizabeth was pregnant, even though she was old and did not have any children. Mary replied, "I belong to God. May everything happen just as you said." Then the angel left her.

Mary hurried to her relative 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! Your baby will be blessed too!"

Mary was so happy. She praised God with a song about how great God is. Mary knew every family in the future would say she was blessed because God was going to do great things through Jesus!

## Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Using the table of contents and large numbers in the text to help them find **Luke 1**. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **Who told Mary she was going to have a baby?** (the angel Gabriel; Luke 1:26-27,31)
2. **How did Mary first feel about the angel's announcement?** (afraid, deeply puzzled; Luke 1:29)
3. **What did the angel say the baby's name would be?** (Jesus, Luke 1:31)
4. **The angel said the baby would be whose Son?** (God's Son; Luke 1:32,35)
5. **Who else did the angel say was going to have a baby?** (Mary's relative Elizabeth, Luke 1:36)
6. **What special role would Elizabeth's baby have?** (He was going to be the messenger who would prepare the way for the Messiah, Luke 1:17)
7. **What did Elizabeth's baby do when Mary came to the house?** (He leaped for joy, Luke 1:41)
8. **How did Mary praise God?** (with a song, Luke 1:46-55)

**God's attributes-** helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

**-Promise Keeper**



# 15 min Flight Lab

*Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible*  
**CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY**

When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, he told her she would give birth to the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus. This shocking news! Mary's response to being chosen for this special role was to praise God for His faithfulness by singing a song. Scripture tells us, "And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47). In the Bible, magnifying means to exalt, praise, and acknowledge God's greatness. Magnifying also means to make something appear larger than it is. For these activities, we will practice using magnification to find hidden pictures.

## Magnify & Find

Give each child a plastic magnifying card and a search-and-find print out. Explain that there are small hidden symbols and words in the image that the children need to find using their magnification card. Once children have found a word or symbol, have them mark their answer on the answer sheet.

## Magnify & Match Scavenger Hunt

Six posters will be placed around the room. Each poster will have a specific tiny image that can be viewed with a magnifying card. Let each child pick a piece of paper with an image that correlates to one of images on the posters. Using their magnification card, children will walk around the room to find the matching image. Once they have found the correct pair, they will get a sticker. Encourage kids to find all the pictures.



# 5 min Pilot's log

## Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide*.**

**ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.**

*This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.*

## Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

**Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.**

## Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

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Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

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Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

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Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

*Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words.* Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, “Switch!” and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

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Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

## Prayer Extra Ideas:

**Prayer Chain**—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

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**Painted Rocks**—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space— a neighbor’s house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

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**Pointing to a Map**—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don’t know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus’ light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

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**Looking out the Window**—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

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**Head Shoulders Knees and Toes**—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

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**Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers**— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

