

## December 1, 2021 – Rick Welty

**Today’s Bible Story:** Tidings of Comfort and Joy (Gabriel Appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-56*

**Today’s Bottom Line:** Celebrate because God has a plan.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.* John 3:16 (NIRV)

**Monthly Life App:** Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God’s greatest gift

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

### BIBLE STORY

#### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, friends! It’s getting closer and closer to Christmas, and I can’t WAIT to share this story with you. It’s one of my favorites, because it’s about a brave young woman who was chosen to do something amazing. You guessed it—this is a story about Mary, the mother of Jesus.

“Actually, I need your help. We’ve come up with new lyrics to a few classic Christmas carols, and I need your help singing them. That means ALL of you—Small Group Leaders, too. Can you help? *(Pause.)* Great! Let’s jump in!

*(Hold up Bible.)* “Mary was an ordinary young woman who was engaged to be married to an ordinary carpenter named Joseph. They both lived in an ordinary town called Nazareth. Mary and Joseph didn’t know it at the time, but God was about to change their lives forever! They knew that one day God would send a Savior who would save His people . . . but they couldn’t have imagined the part that THEY would play in God’s incredible plan!

“All right—here’s our first song, to the tune of ‘Hark, the Herald Angels Sing.’ Do you know that one? *(Pause.)* The lyrics will be on the screen. Let’s give it a go!

**AUDIO:** “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” instrumental karaoke track (suggestion: by The Karaoke Channel)

*Conduct the audience, giving them a big cue when they’re supposed to start singing. Look at the screen as you sing along.*

**SLIDE:** “Hark the Herald” Lyrics Slides

*Mary is a simple girl  
Living in her simple world.*

*She’s engaged to her man Joe.  
He makes tables, don’t you know?*

*All day long she kneels and prays:  
“Send someone to change our ways.”*

*“God above, please hear my prayer  
And bless Joe—he made a chair.”*

*“Send a sign from heav’n above.  
Give us a gift to show Your love.”*

**AUDIO:** *Fade out music*

**SLIDE:** *Theme Background*

“A great start! You all sound fantastic!”

### **AN ANGELIC VISIT**

**STORYTELLER:** “Well one day, the most amazing thing happened. God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth to visit Mary! The angel greeted Mary and said . . .

*Open the Bible to Luke 1:28 (NIRV) and read.*

*“The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you.*

“As you might imagine, Mary was quite startled to find an ANGEL standing right there in front of her. She wondered what in the world was happening! But the angel had GOOD news for her. He said . . .

*Open the Bible to Luke 1:30 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you.*

“Then the angel said something that would REALLY change Mary’s plans.

*Open the Bible to Luke 1:31-32 (NIRV) and read.*

*“You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God.*

Mary asked how this could happen. She wasn’t married yet. And honestly, everything the angel said must have been incredible for her to hear. Was it possible that Mary would bring God’s own Son into the world? Could this baby be the Savior God had promised?

“Let’s sing this song to the tune of ‘We Wish You a Merry Christmas.’ Maybe it’ll help us imagine what it was like for Mary to get this kind of news.

**AUDIO:** *“We Wish You a Merry Christmas” instrumental karaoke track (suggestion: by 2010s Karaoke Band—the 2:38 version)*

*Conduct the audience, giving them a big cue when they’re supposed to start singing. Look at the screen as you sing along.*

**SLIDE:** *“We Wish You a Merry Christmas” Lyrics Slides*

*The angel surprised me greatly.  
He said I would have a baby.  
I feel a little shaky.  
Can this even be real?*

*He tells me about my Son now.  
He knows what His name is somehow.  
All I can think is “Oh, wow!”  
Can this even be real?*

*This baby will be  
Savior for you and me  
The Son of the Most High.  
Can this even be real?*

**AUDIO:** Fade out music

**SLIDE:** Theme Background

“Very nice, everyone!”

### **OFF TO SEE ELIZABETH**

**STORYTELLER:** “When Mary asked how this could happen, the angel told her . . .

*Open the Bible to Luke 1:35-37 (NirV) and read.*

*“The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So, the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That’s because what God says will always come true.*

“Ah! Isn’t that interesting? If you were here last week, you’ll remember Elizabeth. She was married to Zechariah. Remember, Zechariah and Elizabeth were old, but God gave them a gift of a new baby boy named John. Well, Mary and Elizabeth were related to each other, which meant that John and Jesus would be cousins.

“So what happened next? Mary simply chose to trust God’s plan for her life. She told the angel . . .

*Open the Bible to Luke 1:38 (NirV) and read.*

*“I serve the Lord . . . May it happen to me just as you said it would.*

“And the angel left. Mary knew where she had to go next. She hurried to the town where Zechariah and Elizabeth lived. When she got there, she went inside their home and greeted Elizabeth. And get this—when Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby inside her jumped!

“Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She told Mary . . .

*Open the Bible to Luke 1:42-45 (NirV) and read.*

*“God has blessed you more than other women. And blessed is the child you will have! But why is God so kind to me? Why has the mother of my Lord come to me? As soon as I heard the sound of your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy! You are a woman God has blessed. You have believed that the Lord would keep his promises to you!”*

### **MARY SINGS**

**STORYTELLER:** “Mary was so amazed by everything that had happened that she sang a song about it!

*Open the Bible to Luke 1:46-49 (NirV) and read.*

*“My soul gives glory to the Lord. My spirit delights in God my Savior. He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important. From now on all people will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me. His name is holy.*

“I wonder what it would sound like if we sang our own version of Mary’s song . . . to the tune of ‘Deck the Halls’? Let’s go for it!

**AUDIO:** “Deck the Halls” instrumental karaoke track (suggestion: by Fun Party DJ)

*Conduct the audience, giving them a big cue when they’re supposed to start singing. Look at the screen as you sing along.*

**SLIDE:** “Deck the Halls” Lyrics Slides

*Angel told me I’m expecting.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la*

*I can see it’s God’s directing.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la*

*‘Lizabeth and Zechariah  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la*

*I’m the mom to the Messiah.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la*

*I delight in God my Savior.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la*

*I am blessed with holy favor.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la*

*Promises I won’t take lightly.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la*

*Holy One, Your name is mighty.  
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la*

**AUDIO:** *Fade out music*

**SLIDE:** *Theme Background*

“Beautiful! Just beautiful!”

*(Hold up Bible.)* “Mary was overjoyed that God had chosen her to play a part in His plan for the whole world. She stayed with Elizabeth for three months—talking, dreaming, praying, planning, and rejoicing. Then, she returned home.”

*Set down the Bible and sit on the front of the stage as you wrap up.*

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Mary never could have imagined what would happen that day when the angel visited her . . . and gave her the news that would change her life forever. The amazing thing is, Mary simply said yes to God. She trusted God’s plan for her life. She believed that God’s plan was bigger and better than any plans she might have had for herself. Think about that—God’s plans are bigger and better. That’s something to celebrate! Remember this . . .

**SLIDE:** *Bottom Line*

**[Bottom Line]** “Celebrate because God has a plan.”

“We can put our trust in God, just like Mary did. We can believe that God’s plans are always good in the end. Let’s pray and ask God to help us do that.”

**SLIDE:** *Theme Background*

### **PRAY**

**STORYTELLER:** “God, sometimes we feel like we have everything planned out in our lives. We know the way we want things to be. But none of that compares with the plans YOU have for our lives. We know that You always know what’s best for us . . . even if we can’t see it right away. Help us **[Basic Truth]** trust You no matter what, just like Mary did. Give us the faith to say yes to You in everything we do. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”