

General Church Education



The Angel and Mary

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Lesson 27

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

THE ANGEL AND MARY

LUKE 1:26-35, 38

Today's story is the first of four stories about the Lord's birth into the world. The Lord was born on our earth because He loves us. He wanted to come near to people so that they could see His love and mercy through His miracles, and hear Him teach about the life that leads to heaven.

There were times throughout the ages when people did not follow the Lord and forgot about His truth. The people of the Golden Age, represented by Adam and Eve, chose to follow human intelligence over the Lord's leading. The human race was almost brought to extinction by a "flood" of evil and falsity represented by the story of Noah. Later, when the Children of Israel had turned away, the Lord gave them the Ten Commandments through Moses. It is sad to think that, as years passed, people once again, turned from following the truth of the Lord's Word. Evil spirits were able to gain so much power over people that the way to heaven was nearly cut off entirely.

The Lord was born into this world so that He could save the human race from the grip of the hells. The promise of this salvation is what brings joy to the hearts and minds of the angels as they contemplate the Christmas story. The angels share this joy with us as we celebrate the Lord's advent.

IDEA FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN

- We can share in the joy of the angels as we happily prepare to celebrate the birth of the Lord. Our children share this same joy from the angels as they learn with innocent delight the stories from the Word telling about this great event.

FROM THE WRITINGS

There are many reasons why God could not redeem humankind, that is, rescue people from hell and damnation, except by taking upon Himself the human form. For redemption was the conquest of the hells and the ordering of the heavens, followed by the establishment of a church. This is something that God in His omnipotence could not do except through the Human, just as no one can work unless he has an arm; His Human is actually called in the Word 'Jehovah's arm.' For comparison, the soul can do nothing without the body. *True Christian Religion* 84

By the Son of the God is meant Jehovah God in His Human, by the Son of Man the Lord as to the Word, and by the Son of Mary the actual human which He took upon Himself. *True Christian Religion* 92

THE ANGEL AND MARY

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord came on earth to save us by teaching us the way to heaven.

Angels are messengers of the Lord.

Angels rejoice with us as we celebrate the birth of the Lord.

At Christmas time we celebrate the most important thing that ever has happened, the birth of the Lord. The Lord chose to be born as a tiny Baby on this earth. He came because He loves all people. He knew that if people could see Him with their natural eyes and hear Him with their natural ears, they would be able to learn new things from Him about how to go to heaven.

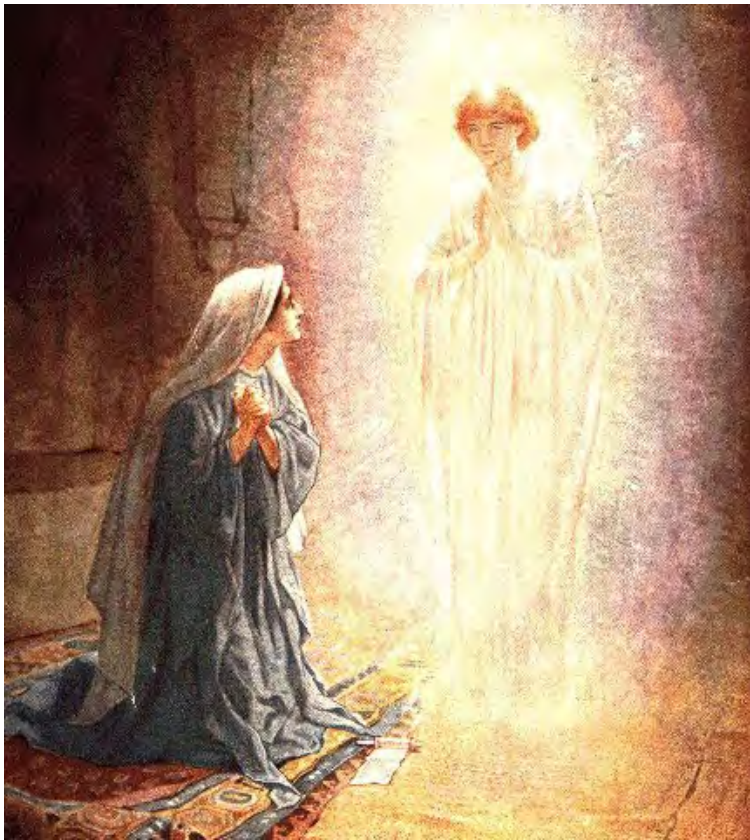
People all over the world love to celebrate the birthday of the Lord. We have many ways that we like to share our joy with family members and with friends. The joy that we feel at Christmas time comes from the angels who are with us. They are very happy when they think of why the Lord came into the world. When we read stories in the Word about the little Baby Jesus, the angels are deeply moved. They also enjoy the stories in the Word about the angels who were so happy about the news of His birth.

Angels live in heaven and love to do the Lord's will. The Lord always sends angels to be near us to guard us and help us. They are with us all of the time, even though we can't see them with our natural eyes. Before the Lord was born on earth, He often sent angels to people on this earth to bring special messages to them or to protect them from harm. When this happened, the Lord would open their spiritual eyes so that the people were able to see the angels.

The Christmas story in the Word tells about many times when angels came to visit people who were living in this world. Some of them had the happy job of spreading the glad news about this most special of all babies. Today's story tells



about the angel named Gabriel who was sent to visit a young woman named Mary. Mary was a virgin who was betrothed, or promised, to a man named Joseph. Gabriel had very special news for Mary. She had been chosen to be the mother of the Baby Lord.



Gabriel was happy to bring this good news to Mary. The first thing that He said to her was "Rejoice." That means "Be happy!" He also told Mary that the Lord was with her and that she was blessed by Him. At first, Mary was troubled, which means worried, when she saw the angel. The angel immediately comforted her and told her not to be afraid, because she had "found favor with God." Read Luke 1:26-30.

Mary was then told that she would be the mother of the Lord when He was born on earth. Listen to the next part of the story to see if you can hear what Gabriel told her the Baby's name should be. Can you also hear some of things that this special Baby would do in the future when He was grown up? Read Luke 1:31-33.

The Baby's name was to be Jesus. This name means "Savior." He was to be the Son of the Highest. He would reign over the house of Jacob, or Israel, forever. His Kingdom would have no end. Mary knew that this was a very special Baby indeed. However, Mary was puzzled as to how she could become a mother. She was betrothed, but not yet married to Joseph. Gabriel told her that this Baby was to be "the Son of God." God Himself would come down on earth, born as a little baby. It was to be an amazing miracle. Read Luke 1:34, 35 & 38.

Mary accepted the words of the angel. She was happy to do whatever the Lord wished of her. She said, "'Be it unto me according to your word.'" And the angel departed from her."



DISCUSSION

- There are other stories in the Word that tell about angels visiting people. Can you remember any other "angel stories" that you have heard? (***Answers may include the Garden of Eden, Lot and his wife, Balaam, Daniel, Hagar in the wilderness, Zacharias and Elizabeth, the Easter story.***)
- Angels brought many special messages to people at the time of the Lord's birth. Today, we read about Gabriel visiting Mary. We can imagine the angel suddenly appearing to Mary, being surrounded with wonderful light. How did Mary feel when she first saw the angel? (***Troubled, worried.***)
- Can you remember the words that Gabriel said to Mary to reassure her? (***Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God.***)
- What amazing thing did he promise to Mary? (***That she would have a very special Baby.***)
- Mary was surprised at the news that she would have a baby. She was not yet married to Joseph. This is when the angel told her that her baby was to be the most special baby that ever would be born. Who was this baby? (***Some of the names the angel told Mary include Jesus, the Son of God, the Son of the Highest.***)
- In ancient times people usually named the first son after the father. Do you remember what name Mary was told to give the baby? (***Since this was to be the Son of God, Mary was told to name the baby "Jesus".***) This name means Savior, because He was coming to show all people the way to heaven. He would save them from the control of evil spirits.

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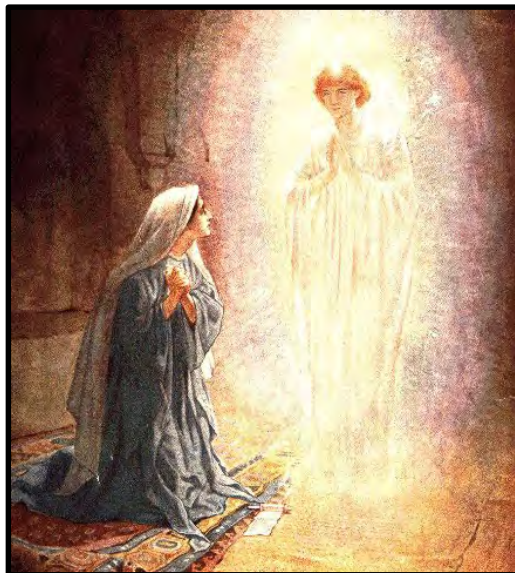
Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest."

Luke 1:30-32 (Portions)

When your child has learned the recitation, look for the recitation award picture like this in the *Recitation Book*. Give your child a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.



Song

- *My Soul Magnifies the Lord*
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-my-soul-magnifies-the-lord/>

Videos

- *The Annunciation to Mary (story from the Word)*
Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-annunciation-to-mary/>

Projects

- *The Angel Appears to Mary*
- *Picture to color*

The Angel Appears to Mary

This project helps children visualize and the miraculous message Mary received from the angel telling her that the Lord would be born.

Supplies needed

- 2 pieces of stiff paper for printing
- scissors
- colored pencils or crayons
- stapler or tape
- *Optional:* glue and glitter to decorate the angel



Directions

1. You will be making two figures to set up a diorama of the angel appearing to Mary.
2. Print the pictures of the angel Gabriel and Mary on stiff paper.
3. Color the figures as desired.
4. Cut out the figures on the lines. To simplify cutting out the angel, cut out as shown in the sample above.
5. *Optional:* decorate the angel using glue and glitter.
6. Bend the skirts of the figures towards the back so they can stand. Staple or tape the skirts at the back of the figure. If you have used glitter, wait until the glitter is dry to assemble the angel.
7. Display.

