

1st-5th Grade Small Group Lesson

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Session Title: Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph

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

Main Point: God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' earthly parents.

Key Passage: 1 John 4:9

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

Christ Connection: *The baby Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy, as well as other Old Testament prophecies, about the coming Savior. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus fulfilled God's plan of redemption that God planned before the world began.*

Bible Story Review

This week we will show the group that the story of Jesus' birth is described in two books in the Bible.

The story of Jesus' birth is told in Matthew 1 and Luke 1, each with different, yet important details. Let's highlight both locations to easily find them for THIS Christmas season. Highlight the heading or the verses: Luke 1:26 and Matthew 1:18.

1. Invite the group to open their Bibles to the Table of Contents
2. Have them look through the list of Books in the Old and New Testament
3. Have them open their Bibles to Matthew 1:18 and Luke 1:26 to highlight their locations.

Some details shared in this Bible story seem impossible. Do you remember any of them that we have learned about? (Angels talking to Mary & Joseph, A baby made inside a young woman by God, etc.) **If things were left up to us, it would be impossible, but with God anything is possible.**

Deliver the Message

Whisper in the ear of the person to your right a special message that he or she will whisper in the ear of the person next to them. Continue around the circle until the message reaches the last person, who will stand up and say the message aloud.

Messages:

- **The angel appeared when Mary was awake.**
- **The angel spoke to Joseph in a dream.**
- **Mary was told she was going to be the mother of God's Son.**
- **Joseph was told to take Mary as his wife.**
- **The angel told Mary and Joseph to name the baby Jesus.**
- **Mary went to visit Elizabeth.**
- **Joseph was a descendant of King David.**

Say: **Each one of you got to deliver a message to your friends. Does that remind you of anyone from our story? Just like you delivered my message, the angel delivered God's message to Mary and Joseph. And do you remember that message? God chose Mary and Joseph to be the earthly parents of Jesus.**

Vowel Swap



INSTRUCTIONS: Use the vowel code to complete each word. Then cross out words beginning with *I*, *O* or *U* to see the Main Point.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 John 4:9



BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.

BIBLE STORY:

ANGELS SPOKE TO MARY AND JOSEPH

- An angel told Mary that she would be Jesus' mother.
- She visited her cousin, whose baby jumped in her belly!
- God gave Joseph a dream explaining that Mary's baby was from God.
- Joseph obeyed God and became Mary's husband.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How do you think it felt to be Mary or Joseph?
- Why is Jesus' earthly family important?
- What about being Jesus' earthly family would be hard? What might be easy?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Celebrate Advent with your family. Find instructions for making an Advent wreath and read through a devotional. Light the appropriate candles and sing carols together.

G _ d _ ns d _ ch _ s _ M _ ry _ nd
 J _ s _ ph t _ b _ _ r _ ng _ J _ s _ s '
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A	E	I	O	U