



Mary

Handmaiden Who Believed

Mary had so many chores to do today. First, she had to go and get water from the well. Then she had to sweep the floor and help her mother bake the bread.

After that, she hoped to start her weaving. Soon, she would marry a wonderful man named Joseph – and Mary must make clothes for the wedding!

Mary hurried to begin her work.



“Greetings, chosen one!” said a voice.

“The Lord is with you.”

Mary looked up. There before her was an angel!

Mary felt scared. She had never heard a greeting like *this* before. *What could it mean?*

“Don’t be afraid, Mary,” said the angel. “God loves you and wants to be kind to you. He has chosen you to have a special baby. You shall name Him Jesus. He will save His people and be their King forever.”

What a surprise! How amazing! Mary believed, but she had just one question.



“How will this happen?” she wondered. She didn’t quite understand.

The angel, Gabriel, answered, “Your child will be born by God’s power. He won’t be like any other child. He will be the holy Son of God.”

Then Gabriel gave Mary another surprise, “Your relative Elizabeth, who is old, will have a son too,” he said. “See? Nothing is too hard for the Lord.”

Mary believed it all! “I am the Lord’s handmaiden, ready to obey,” she said.

Then the angel left.

Mary packed up her things and hurried all the way to Elizabeth and Zacharias’ house. She couldn’t wait to share the good news.

“Greetings, Elizabeth!” called Mary, as she entered the house.

But before Mary could say another word, Elizabeth shouted with joy. God had already let Elizabeth know the good news.

“How happy are you!” cried Elizabeth. “You will be the mother of the Savior. And how happy are you for believing that everything the Lord told you would come true.”

Mary was so excited that she couldn’t keep quiet. “What a great

God! Holy is His name,” she praised. “For He has done great things for a poor handmaiden like me.”

“And best of all – ” she sang. “God has remembered the promise He made to Israel long ago. He has kept His promise to send us a Savior.”

Mary WAS happy. For she had believed everything the angel told her. And soon she would become the mother of the Savior – the Lord Jesus Christ.

Learn from Mary’s biography:

- God chose Mary to be the mother of the Savior, Jesus Christ.
- What God says always comes true.
- Be like Mary! Believe everything that God says in His Word.



Parent Ideas

Mary, Handmaiden Who Believed

Scripture: Luke 1:26-56

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- God chose Mary to be the mother of the Savior, Jesus Christ.
- What God says always comes true.
- Be like Mary! Believe everything that God says in His Word.

1. Read-together activity – If your child wants to practice her reading skills, let her participate at various points in your reading. To prepare, highlight different parts of the text with colored markers. In one color, highlight simple sentences, phrases or lines of dialogue your child should read aloud alone. In another color, highlight sentences you will read aloud first, and your child will read back to you. In a third color, highlight sentences you will read along with your child in unison. Read the remaining uncolored sections aloud by yourself.

2. Discussion activity – Ask your child to name his favorite part of the biography. Why was it his favorite?

Then ask the following discussion questions:

- What was so special about Mary's baby? What would He do?
- In what ways were Zacharias and Mary the same? In what ways were they different?
- Whom would you rather be like – Zacharias or Mary? Why?

Parents, to help your child compare and contrast Zacharias and Mary, draw two columns. In one column, write several phrases that describe Zacharias and the events that happened to him (e.g., he saw an angel, he was afraid, the angel said he would have a son, he did not believe, God punished him, etc.). In the other column, write several phrases that describe Mary (e.g., she saw an angel, she was afraid, she believed, she was happy, etc.). Draw a line to connect those items that are the same in both columns. Circle the items that are different.

3. Discussion activity – Explain to your child that a long, long time ago, when only Adam and Eve lived in the world, God promised to send a Savior (Genesis 3:15). Many years later, God kept His promise. Mary would give birth to the Savior, Jesus Christ. What God says always comes true! Talk about why you both are happy that God keeps His promises.

Note: Many prophets also predicted the coming of the Savior. A few examples of prophecies that Christ fulfilled are Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2.

4. Application activity – When Mary thought of all the great things God had done, she couldn't help but praise Him. Lead your child in a time of praise. Focus on the Savior Jesus Christ. You can do this in many ways. Here are a few ideas:

- Sing a praise song focused on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Take the verses from the WingRunner Rank and turn them into prayers of praise. (For example, for 1 Corinthians 15:3, say, "Thank you God that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.")
- Express your worship through a creative word poster or drawing. To make a word poster, write key words from WingRunner Rank verses, such as Savior, Father, Scriptures, good, believe, etc. Write the words on a poster board in decorative ways, using various colors, sizes, styles of lettering, etc.