

THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

New Testament Lesson #2

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel (GAY-bri-el) was sent to a young woman named Mary. She lived in the city of Nazareth (NAZ-a-reth) in Galilee (GAL-i-lee) and planned to marry a man named Joseph. Both were descendants of King David.

When Gabriel spoke to Mary, he said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary wasn't sure what to think, but Gabriel told her not to be afraid for she had found favor with God. He explained that she was going to have a baby boy whom she was to name Jesus. Gabriel told her of the great things God planned to do with the child:

- "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High."
- "The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David."
- "He will reign over the house of Jacob forever."
- "His kingdom will never end."

But Mary asked, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

Gabriel explained that the Holy Spirit would come upon her. He told her that her relative, Elizabeth, who was old and barren, was now in the sixth month of pregnancy. Gabriel explained that nothing is impossible with God. Mary's response was, "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Mary hurried to visit Elizabeth. When Mary arrived, Elizabeth became filled with the Holy Spirit and blessed Mary for believing God. Mary then praised God for what he had done and was going to do. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and then returned to Nazareth.

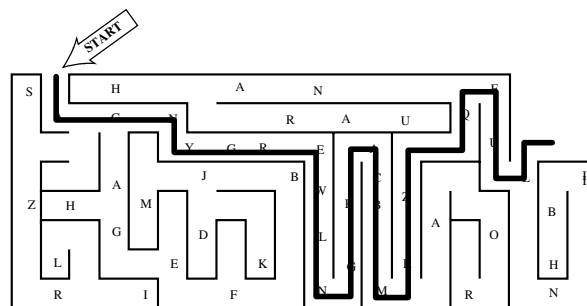
POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Nazareth in Galilee was a region despised by many Jews because of the number of Gentiles living there. The area was called the "Galilee of the Gentiles" in Isaiah 9:1 (around 700 years earlier). In John 1:43-46, when Philip told Nathanael that they had found the one that Moses and the prophets had written about — Jesus of Nazareth — Nathanael's response was, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

- The angel Gabriel was sent to Mary of Nazareth.
 - The angel told Mary that the Lord was with her and that she would have a baby boy.
 - The baby should be named Jesus, and his kingdom would never end.
 - When Mary asked how she, a virgin, could have a baby, Gabriel said that the Holy Spirit would make this baby's life possible.
- Mary hurried to visit Elizabeth.
 - Elizabeth was expecting a baby.
 - Elizabeth blessed Mary for believing God's word through Gabriel.
 - Mary praised God for his promise of a special baby.

ANSWER KEY:



Angel Gabriel

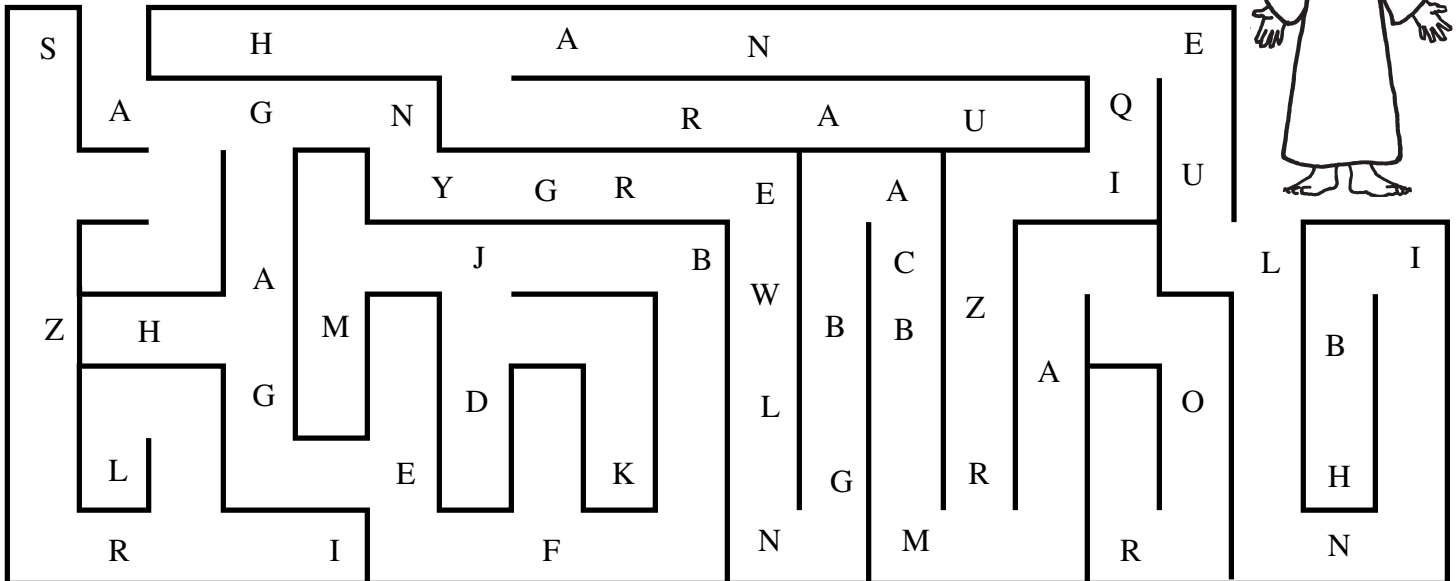
"Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus."



M

ary was a young woman who lived in Nazareth of Galilee.
She would soon be married to a man named Joseph.
God sent a messenger to her. Who was sent?

Find the path to Mary. Write every other letter from the correct path in order on the lines below.



A _ _ _ _ _

What did the messenger say to Mary?

The vowels are
missing from this
message.

There should be:

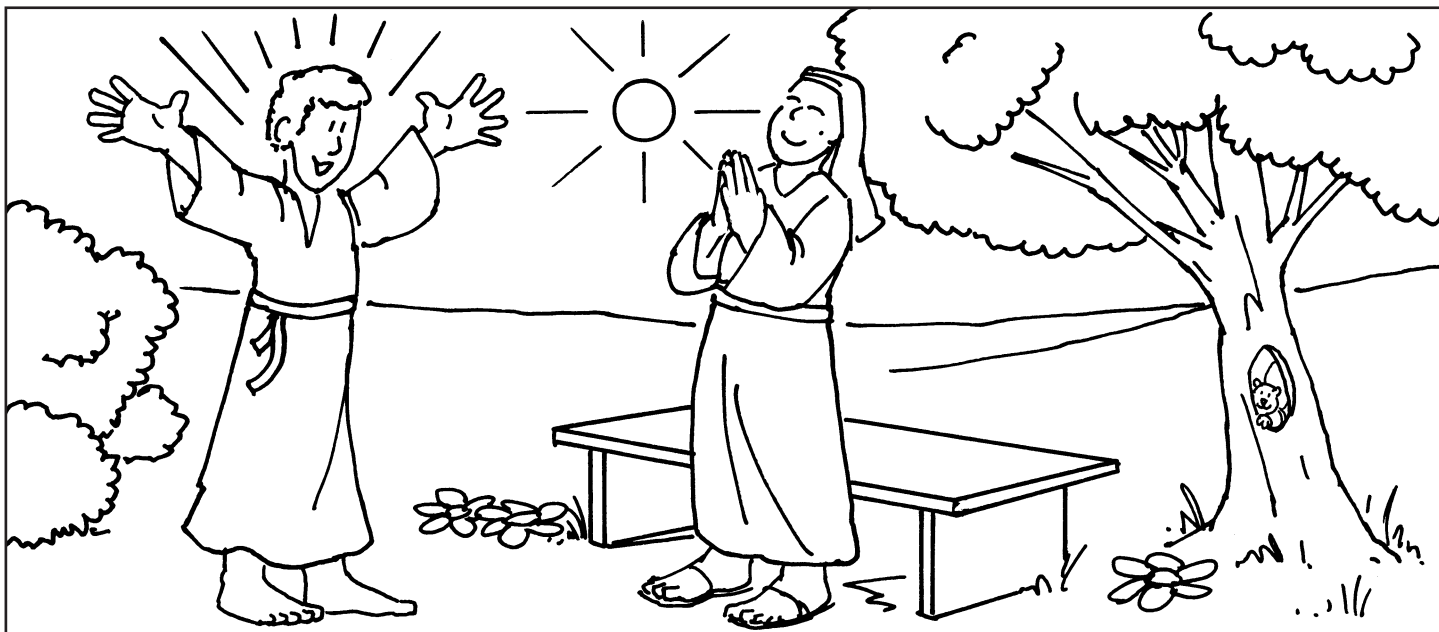
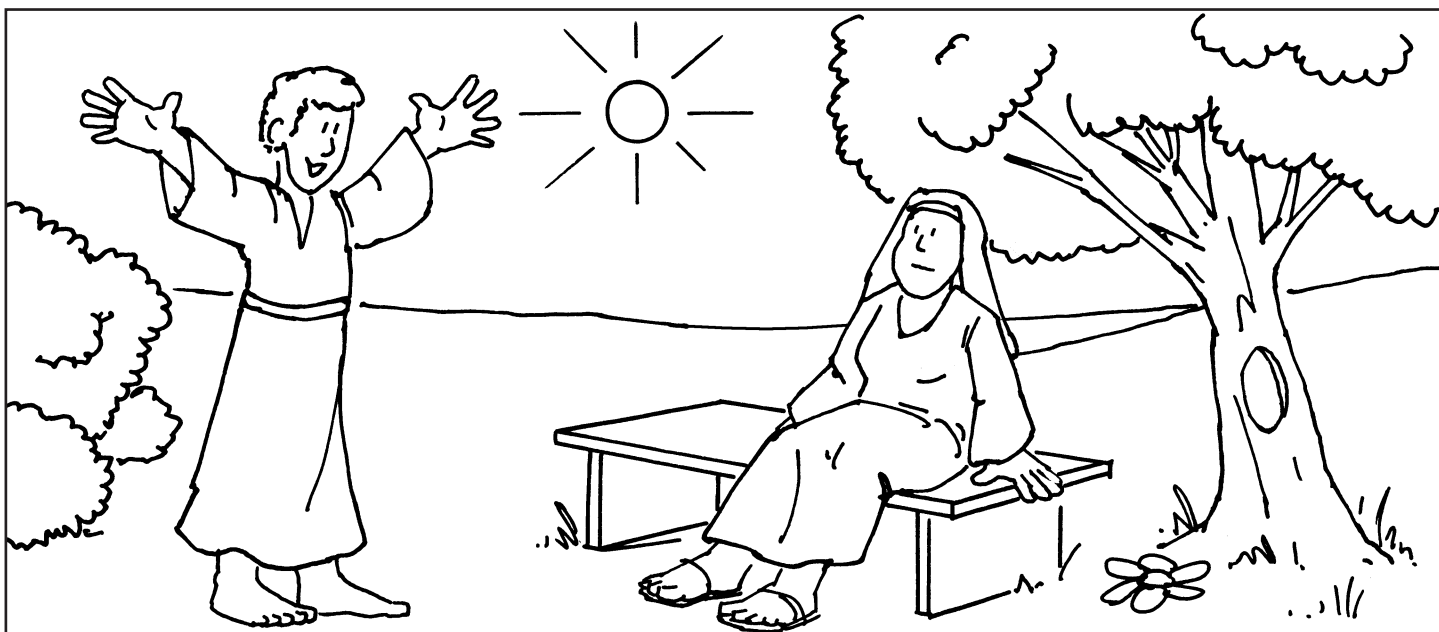
- 12 - a's
- 14 - e's
- 13 - i's
- 16 - o's
- 7 - u's

"Gr__t__ngs, y__ wh__ _r__ h__ghly f__v__r_d!
Th__ L__rd __s w__th y___. D__ n__t b__ _fr__d,
M__ry, y__ h__v__ f__nd f__v__r w__th G__d.
Y__ w__ll b__ w__th ch__ld __nd g__v__ b__rth
t__ __ s__n, __nd y__ __r__ t__ g__v__ h__m
th__ n__m__ J__s__s."

Name _____

Gabriel appeared to Mary. He told her she would become the mother of Jesus.

Circle 5 things different in the bottom picture.



Name _____

New Testament Lesson #2

Elizabeth was going to have a baby. When Mary greeted her, Elizabeth said something happened. What was it?



Use the code to find out

▣ = A	▴ = E	◀ = I	▼ = N	◀ = S	▼ = W
▣ = B	▴ = F	◀ = J	▶ = O	◀ = T	▼ = X
▣ = C	◀ = G	◻ = K	▶ = P	▴ = U	◻ = Y
▣ = D	◀ = H	▴ = L	▶ = Q	▴ = V	▴ = Z
		◻ = M	▶ = R		



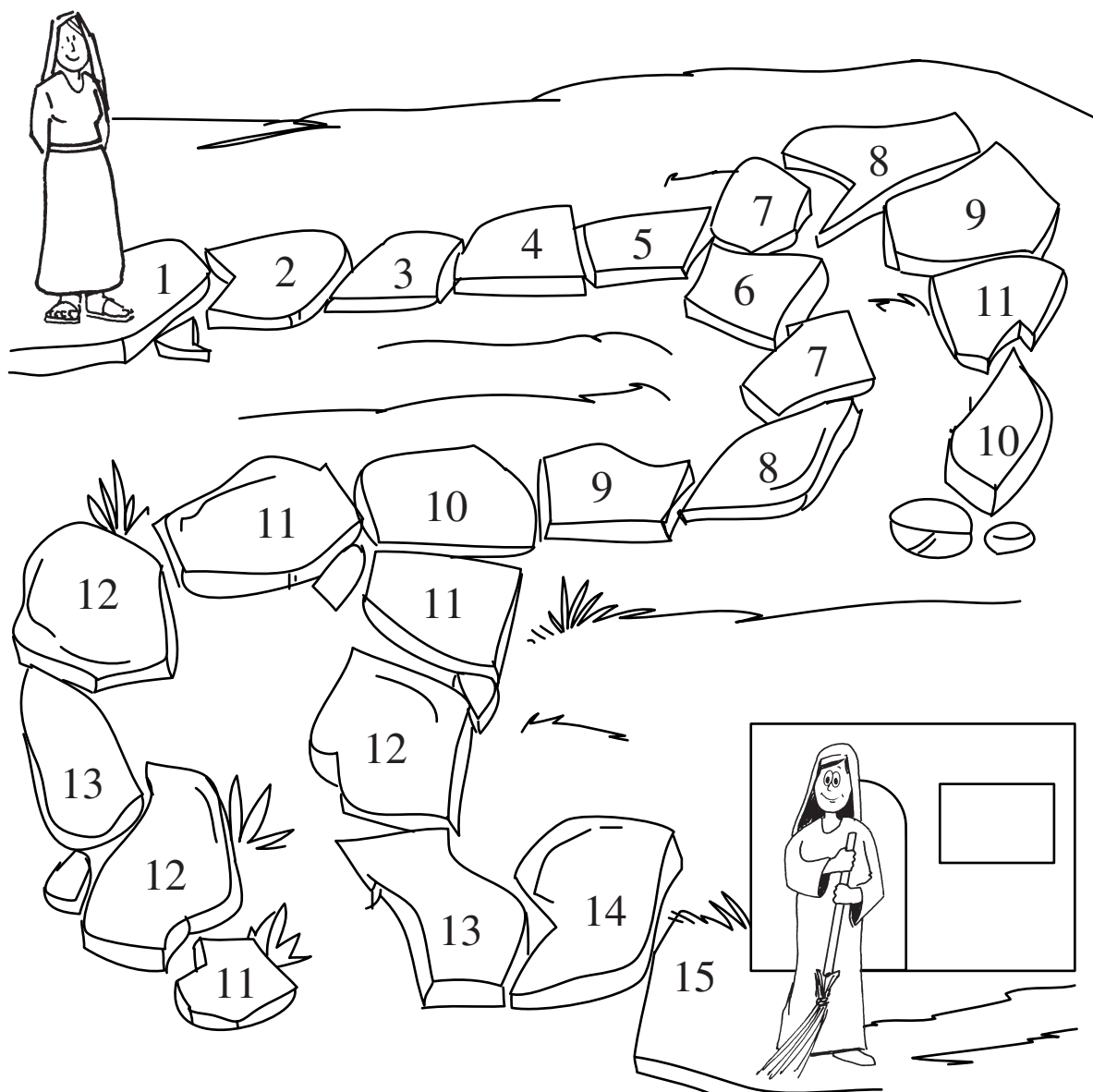
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Name _____

Mary went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth.

Follow the numbers to help Mary get to Elizabeth's house.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15



Name _____