

# A Visit from an angel

## Theme

The angel Gabriel tells Mary about the birth of Jesus.

## Object

A Christmas tree angel

## Scripture

But the angel said to her, "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. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. Luke 1:30-32 (NIV)

What do you put at the very top of your Christmas tree? Some people put a star at the top of their tree. That's a good choice. After all, a special star played a very important part in the story of Christmas. Some people like to put an angel at the top of their tree. That's a good choice too, because angels also played a very important role in the Christmas story.

As you probably know, angels are messengers from God. Today, I want to tell you about a very important angel by the name of Gabriel. Many years ago, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to deliver a message to a young virgin named Mary who was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.

The angel appeared to Mary and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

Mary was frightened and confused by the angel's greeting. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her. "You have found favor with God. You will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus."

Mary asked the angel. "How can this happen? I am a virgin."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. The baby will be holy and he will be called the Son of God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary replied, "let everything happen just as you have said."

God could have chosen anyone to give birth to Jesus, but he chose Mary, a young virgin living in the little village of Nazareth. She wasn't very important, but she was important to God, and he chose her to do the most important thing one could imagine -- he chose her to give birth to his Son. God still chooses unimportant people to perform important tasks. He has given you and me the task of sharing the good news of Jesus and his love to the whole world. "Go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19) Can you imagine a more important task? This year, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us, like Mary, answer God's call. "I am the Lord's servant, Let it be with me just as you have said."

Dear Father, we thank you for this story about how you sent the angel Gabriel to take your message to Mary. We also thank you that you have given us the task of taking the message of Jesus and his love to all the world. Amen.

## Interactive Group Activities

by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick

**Sermon Title:** "A Visit from an Angel"

**scripture Reading:** Luke 1:26-38

**PIN THE WINGS ON THE ANGEL GAME:** The teacher can have a large angel on the wall or poster board. Let children take turns being blindfolded and pinning the wings on the angel. The wings can be doilies folded in half or a coffee filter. To make the game different, the teacher can have ONE ANGEL per student and let the children go to their own angel, quickly color it and tape the wings to the back of the angel!

**SINGING ANGELS:** Divide the class into two groups. Sing ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH together as a class and then let each group sing the chorus together... Gloria, in excelsis Deo, etc. After each group has sung the chorus, move the notes up a half step and each team sing the chorus again! This will just be fun and children will laugh at their high voices. Continue to sing higher and higher as time allows. Tell children to listen carefully about the angels in our story today!

**ANGEL WINGS:** Have angel wings available to hook on children with a piece of elastic around their arms, for each child who would like to try and recite the Bible verse! then the child will place the WINGS on someone else who will try to say today's Bible verse, etc.

**THUMBPRINT ANGELS:** Give children ink pads of various colors and let them make fingerprint angels all over a piece of paper and then draw little wings on their angel and write today's Bible verse around the angels on the paper.

**ANGEL HUNT:** Make 3 parts of an angel (triangle for the body, a circle of the head, and a paper doily for the wings), and make enough angel parts for each child. When the teacher says GO FIND YOUR ANGEL, each child will run to hunt for the angel's body, head and wings, and come back to the table and put the angel together, gluing it to a piece of construction paper! Children can write the Bible verse today on the paper!

**ANGEL MOBILE:** Let children have many triangles, circles and doily wings (or coffee filters for wings) and make a few "angels" and hang from plastic hanger as a mobile! Hang the angels in the classroom for Christmas decorations! The angel parts can be many different colors to make the mobiles more colorful, or could be all green and red.

**ANGEL ORNAMENTS or PINS:** Give children supplies to make angel ornaments (triangles, circles and folded circle doilies). Let children use glitter gel pens and sequins and glitter to decorate their angels for the tree ornaments or pins. If children will wear their angel as a pin, then hot glue a safety pin to the back of the angel! If using their angel as a tree ornament, then add a piece of string or yarn to the top, for hanging!

**ANGEL BOOK:** Give children a few pages of construction paper to staple or yarn-tie together. Have triangles, circles and larger circles to fold in half as wings, available for children's books. Tell children to make their very own ANGEL BOOK and draw different angels on each page or glue the Angel body parts on the pages and decorate, as well as parts from our Bible story and our Bible verse today! Tell children to share their Angel news with their families over Christmas time!

**ANGEL COOKIES:** Give children an ANGEL cookie to enjoy for a snack after singing a Christmas carol about angels. Let children choose a "carol" with the word "angel" in it!

**Song: "That Beautiful Name"**

Words and Music (pdf)



MP3 Accompaniment Track

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**About Carol Williams**

Carol and her husband have been in the ministry for 35 years. They have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, and for the last 14 years in Indiana. Carol loves to work with children so you will find her teaching in Junior Church and children's Sunday School. She also has clowning ministry in which she is known as Bubbles tc (the clown).

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# Children's Worship Bulletin

## A Visit from an Angel



Decode the message by finding each substitute letter.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

UNA CYDAQ LCZR UO NAP, "RO YOU BA CIPCZR,  
VCPM, MOF NCXA IOFYR ICXOP EZUN DOR. MOF  
EZQQ BA EZUN TNZQR CYR DZXA BZPUN UO C  
LOY, CYR MOF CPA UO DZXA NZV UNA YCVA SAEFL.  
NA EZQQ BA DPACU CYR EZQQ BA TCQQAR UNA  
LOY OI UNA VOLU NZDN." - QFHA 1:30-32

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# Color Me!



The angel Gabriel appears to Mary

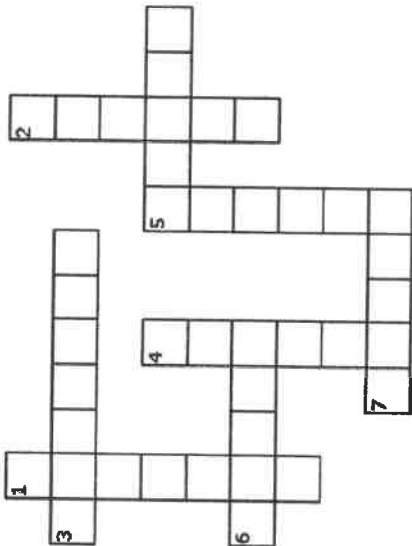
Luke 1:26-38

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# An Angel Visits Mary

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. Luke 1:31 (NIV)  
Puzzle is based on Luke 1:26-38



## ACROSS

- To be joined together as husband and wife
- A heavenly being; a messenger for God
- The son who was born to Mary
- A very young person especially between infancy and youth

## DOWN

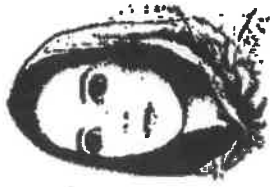
- The name of the angel who appeared to Mary
- A young unmarried woman; a maiden
- The man to whom Mary was engaged to marry
- To be filled with fear

JOSEPH	MARRIED	AFRAID	VIRGIN
GABRIEL	CHILD	ANGEL	JESUS

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# An Angel Visits Mary

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. Luke 1:31 (NIV)  
Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



E	O	U	N	X	B	F	R	Z	T	L	H	Q	V	D	J	S	A	K	I	C	Y	P	W	G	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 18-4-25-1-11 \_\_\_\_\_
- 25-18-6-8-20-1-11 \_\_\_\_\_
- 14-20-8-25-20-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-2-17-1-23-12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 26-18-8-22 \_\_\_\_\_
- 18-7-8-18-20-15 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6-20-8-10-12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 17-2-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-1-17-3-17 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6-2-8-4 \_\_\_\_\_

GABRIEL	SON	MARY	BORN	VIRGIN
AFRAID	JOSEPH	ANGEL	BIRTH	JESUS

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