

1. Will Mary Say Yes to God?

Luke 1



Mary said, "Yes. I am a servant of the Lord."

Luke 1:38

Will Mary Say Yes to God?

Mary and Joseph were soon to be married. They both loved God and obeyed him. God told the angel Gabriel, "Go to Nazareth and tell Mary about a wonderful job I have for her."

The angel Gabriel came to Mary. He said, "Rejoice! The Lord is with you. Mary, you are blessed."

Mary was afraid and upset. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is happy with you. You are going to have a baby! You must call him Jesus. Your son will be a mighty king. His kingdom will never end."

Mary asked, "How will this be?"

The angel said, "Nothing is impossible with God. The Holy Spirit will come over you. This child will be called Son of the Most High God."

Mary said, "Yes. I am a servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as God says."

The angel left. Baby Jesus grew inside Mary. She was happy that she said yes to God.

Questions

1. God put Mary into a special place and time to do a very special job. What job did God give Mary?
2. Mary could have said, "No. That job is too big, too hard, too scary." What did she say?
3. What should we say when God gives us a job to do?
4. What job is God giving you that may be big, hard, long, or scary?

Pray this Prayer:

Dear King Jesus,
Thank you for coming into our
world. Thank you that Mary said
yes. Lord, I also say yes.
I will serve you by _____

Amen

Write on Mary: "Yes. I am a servant
of the Lord." Write on Jesus the job
you will accept from God.



Story S-t-r-e-tch-ing

1. Will Mary Say Yes to God?

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

1. Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) Have you been asked to do a hard or scary job? What was it?
- b) How did you feel before you did it? After?
- c) How would you feel if an angel appeared to you?
- d) What job might the angel have for Mary? Will she yes to God?

After you read:

Add Dialog

Using the story and illustrated first page, have your students draw and fill in word bubbles to show the conversation between Mary and the angel Gabriel. For example, the angel's first bubble would say, "Rejoice! The Lord is with you. Mary, you are blessed."

Say YES to God

Have the kids come up with tasks that God might ask them to do – jobs that would be hard, long, or scary. Write each on index cards. For example: "There is a new child in school eating alone at lunch time. Will you go up and sit by him?" Ask the kids to identify the task as hard, long, or scary. When you have a stack of cards, let the kids pick a card and reply as Mary did, "Yes, I am a servant of the Lord."

Nativity Activity Tradition

Mary said yes, but so did Joseph and others that magnificent night. Sort through new and old Christmas cards. Cut the picture sides of the cards that match the names on the "Yes, God, Yes" poem on page 5. For example, you might cut out a picture of Mary, the star, Bethlehem, etc. Punch a hole and make a loop of ribbon to hang them. Place that card in the tree as you say the poem together. Assign parts. While you go through the poem, ask, "Mary, (Joseph, cow, star, etc.) will you say yes?" Say the last line together. You can also re-enact this nativity story using the figures from a crèche. Save the cards and make this a new Christmas tradition.

Yes, God, Yes

Mary

Yes, God, yes, I will be the mother
to this baby king who is like none other.

Joseph

Yes, God, yes. It will be my joy
to be a father to this little boy.

Donkey

Yes, God, yes, I will carry
the infant and his mother Mary.

Bethlehem

Yes, God, yes, please come down
We welcome you to our little town.

Inn Keeper

Yes, God, yes. He can sleep in my barn
to keep him safe from the cold and harm.

Angels

Yes, God, yes, to the shepherds we'll bring
the good news in the songs we sing.

Lamb

Yes, God, yes. My wool is able
to keep him warm inside the stable.

Crib (Manger)

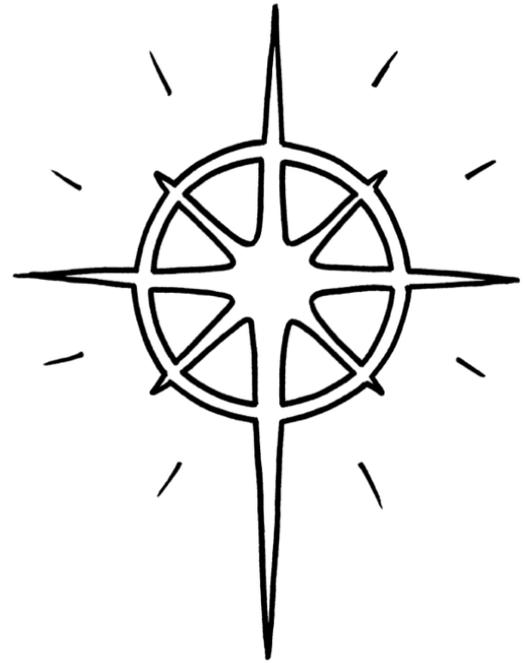
Yes, God, yes, I will use my wood
to give him a bed that's strong and good.

Cow

Yes, God, yes, I will share my hay
to make it soft where he will lay.

Star

Yes, God, yes. I will shine my light.
I will let it sparkle clear and bright.



All is ready. All is right. Come, Lord Jesus. Be born tonight

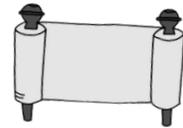
Prophecy Advent Wreath (Part 1)

Make an Advent wreath from flame-resistant Christmas greens. Place four electric candles in the boughs. In the center place some figures from a crèche scene. Print these four pages, roll them, and secure with ribbon. Light a candle and read one of the four prophecies below each week. Read the Foretold verses in the dark and the Fulfilled verses in the light.



Jesus – Our King of Old, Long Foretold

Week 1: Jesus - born to David's throne



Foretold in Isaiah 9:6-8

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.



Fulfilled in Matthew 1:16-17

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah. Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

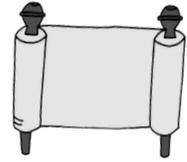
Sing: "Unto Us a Child is Given"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4hkwhOiD98>



Prophecy Advent Wreath (Part 2)

Week 2: Jesus - Emmanuel, born of a virgin.



Foretold in Isaiah 7:14

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel.

Fulfilled in Luke 1:26-30

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

Matthew 1:20-23 (ESV)

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"



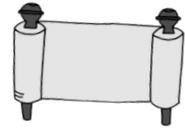
Sing: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPHUG-nJSCA>



Prophecy Advent Wreath (Part3)

Week 3: Jesus - born in Bethlehem.



Foretold in Micah 5:2

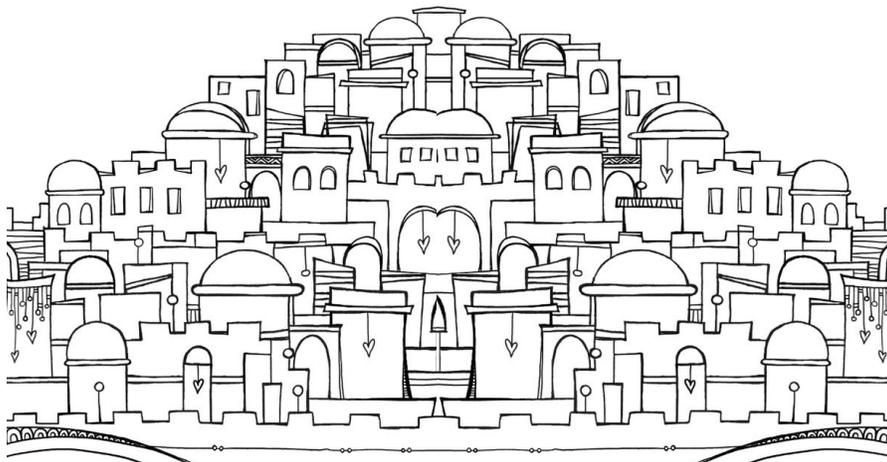
“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Fulfilled in Luke 2:4-7

So, Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Sing: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

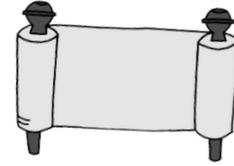
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaz2QGza1fQ>





Advent Wreath (Part 4)

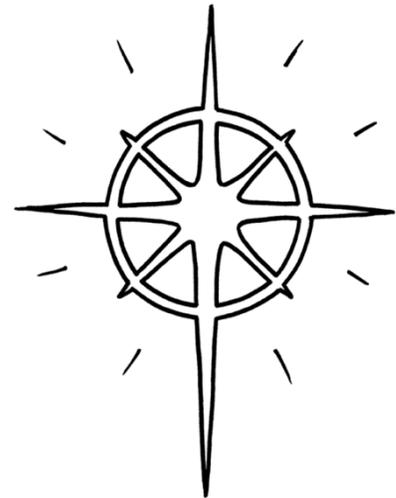
Week 4: Jesus - born under a star



Foretold in Isaiah 9:2; Numbers 24:17a

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.



Fulfilled in Matthew 2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Sing: “We Three Kings”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBwL3y-Wlms>

Could Mary Possibly Know?

Wrap a baby doll in a blanket. Ask: What was the first clue Mary had that her son would be extra special? Teach your children the song: "Mary, Did You Know?" Explain these words: delivered, trod, dumb, lame, Lamb of God, I Am. Only 162 million people love this version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE>
Children from Nigeria singing it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7ZlfABig58>

Mary, Did You Know?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE>

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would
one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
save our sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy
has come to make you new?

This child that you delivered will soon

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would
give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
will calm the storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy
has walked where angels trod?

When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God?

Oh, Mary, did you know?

The blind will see. The deaf will hear.

The dead will live again. The lame will leap.

The dumb will speak the praises of The Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
would one day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?

This sleeping child you're holding is the great I Am.

