



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for December 9, 2007
Released on Wednesday, December 5, 2007**

"Called to Serve"

Lesson: Luke 1:26—38.

Read: Luke 1:26—38.

Times: 6 or 5 B.C.

Place: Nazareth in Galilee

GOLDEN TEXT: "Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38).

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:

Luke 1:26—38

26And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

29And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

36And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

37For with God nothing shall be impossible.

38And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON

This week's Bible lesson continues our consideration of thirteen weighty statements from the New Testament. Last week the message of the lesson could be summed up in the one word "believe." This time the emphasis is on Mary's willingness to obey.

Scripture nowhere suggests worshipping Mary. She never asked that for herself. But she is one who was "highly favored" (Luke 1:28) by God, as the angel said, and it is certainly proper that we admire and respect her.

Mary was not yet married. Girls customarily married at a young age in her culture, so Mary was probably not very old. Already, however, she was a woman of faith. She knew the Scriptures, as is evident from her well-known song, spoken in the house of Elisabeth, and she believed them. But we do not find that out until later in Luke 1:46—55.

Our lesson begins with the Angel Gabriel's sudden appearance and his unusual greeting. Presumably Mary was at home when the angel came to her.

The angel's appearance and his message—that she was highly favored and blessed among women—puzzled, troubled, and even frightened Mary. But the angel told her not to fear. He said she was about to receive a special gift from God. Then he went on to tell what that gift was.

Mary would give birth to a remarkable son. His name was to be "Jesus" ("the Lord saves"). This son would be great. He would be called the Son of the Highest, and He would be a King forever!

Not understanding, Mary responded with a question: "How can this be?" She was unmarried. There was no father on the scene.

Gabriel explained that God Himself would be her child's Father. Then Gabriel gave Mary news that would bolster her faith. Her relative Elisabeth—the barren one, the one people said would never bear children—was actually pregnant!

"Nothing is impossible for God," the angel added, as if to say, "Mary, remember who we are dealing with here." The God who is sovereign is able to do whatever He chooses to do whenever He chooses to do it.

Mary's doubts were silenced, and her response was classic: she was but the Lord's servant. It was His place to command, hers to obey. She accepted His plan totally, without further questions, and told the angel, "Let it be done to me according to your word."

We know the rest. Because Mary carried out God's will, the entire world of mankind has been blessed. We have a Saviour. We have access to forgiveness, everlasting life, friendship with our heavenly Father, and countless other blessings.

Others will be blessed when we too accept the plans God has for us as Mary did.

God prepares His servants in advance. Our personalities and abilities are His endowments. In addition to what He has already given us, let us saturate our minds with His Word, as Mary obviously did. And let us take on her attitude too, saying, "Whatever You wish, Lord, bring that about in my life. I am Your servant."

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that when God tells us to do something, what is always right and best for ourselves and for others is to answer, "I will do what You say."

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God has different work for different people.
2. God fits each of us for our special work.
3. God blesses others when we say yes to Him.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For Telling the Lesson, you will need pictures of Mary and of the angel appearing to her, as well as two flash cards: "YES" and "SPECIAL."

For Helping to Remember, take a white, medium-sized paper plate for each student. Have available crayons, glue, and a supply of dried red beans.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

All of you are in school, so you know how much you like to give the right answer when the teacher asks a question. And you also know the right thing to do when she tells you to read a page or write a story. You do not have to say anything. You just do what she says. But in a way you are saying, "Yes, I will."

Listen to the Bible lesson. Find out how somebody said yes to God, and see what happened.

TELLING THE LESSON:

Mary was a young lady who loved God and His Book. (Show Mary.) We know she did because of some things she said (Luke 1:46—55).

In those days people had only the first part of the Bible, the Old Testament. (Show the Old Testament in your Bible.) But Mary believed what that part of God's Book said about Him. She knew He was strong and kind and good. She knew He took good care of His people. She knew He kept His promises.

The Lord wanted a woman just like that to do something very special for Him. Mary did not know it, but He had been getting her ready for just that special work.

That is the way God does things. He knows what He wants done at specific times, so He makes people ready. You do not know yet what work He has for you to do when you grow up, but He is already starting to make you ready for it.

One day when Mary was in her house, an angel appeared. (show Mary and the angel.) We do not know whether he looked like this. We do not know whether he knocked or just came in. But there he was.

First the angel said hello in the way people did in those days. Then he said, "You are more special than any other woman. (Display "SPECIAL.") The Lord is with you, and He has chosen you for something very good."

The angel's words did not make sense to Mary. She could not understand what he meant. Why would anyone say something like that to her? What could he mean? No, Mary did not understand, and she felt upset.

Then the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God has chosen you over everyone else for something wonderfully special. (Point to "SPECIAL.") You are going to have a baby boy, and you will call Him Jesus." (Have you ever heard what the name "Jesus" means? "Jesus" means "the Lord saves." And that is just what Jesus was coming to do.)

The angel went on to tell Mary, "Your baby will be great—He will be important in the world. The Lord God will make Him King, and He will be King forever and ever."

Now Mary did feel confused. "But how can I have a baby?" she asked. "I am not married. There is no father!"

The angel explained, "God will make it happen. That is why your baby will be called the Son of God." You see, Mary would be Jesus' mother, but God would be His Father. What a special, wonderful thing!

Then the angel reminded Mary, "God is able to do anything. Why, your relative Elisabeth—the one people said would never have children—is going to have a baby too." It is as if the angel were saying, "See what God can do?"

I suppose Mary still did not understand everything. But do you know what she said? She said, "All right. I am the Lord's servant. If that is what He wants, let these things happen to me just as you have said."

The angel went away then, leaving Mary with many wonderful things to think about. (Show Mary again.)

"I am the Lord's servant. If that is what He wants, let things happen to me just as you have said." What a good answer! Mary did not say, "Oh, that is too hard," or, "I would rather do something else," or, "Oh, no, I am not good enough," or, "Let somebody else do it." When Mary found out what the Lord wanted her to do, she just said yes. (Show "YES.")

Just think of all the good things that happened then. Mary's baby was Jesus, God's Son. Jesus grew up and died on the cross for us all. And now anyone who believes in Him can have his sins taken away and live in heaven someday.

Being Jesus' mother was the work God gave Mary to do, and He made her ready to do it. Mary said, "I will." And now you and I can be made God's children.

That is the way it always is. When people do what the Lord tells them, He can make good things happen for many people.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

What the Lord had for Mary to do was extra special. (Display "SPECIAL.") He has something different for each of you to do when you grow up, but you can be sure it will be something that helps other people in some way.

Let us thank God that He is making you ready for what He has for you to do. Let us ask Him to show you at the right time what your work is to be. And let us ask Him to help you say, "Yes, Lord, I will do it."

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Direct the children to print "YES" in large capital letters in the center of their plates. Let them outline one letter at a time with glue and attach beans. Encourage them to tell someone at home what the "YES" means: saying yes to God is always best for us and for others.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38).

The angel had just told Mary that God had chosen her to be the mother of Jesus. The angel said that Mary's baby would be God's Son and that God would make Him a great King. What Mary said meant that she was just the Lord's servant. If that was what He wanted, she was ready to do whatever He said.

We will not be called to do something as important as what Mary did, but we need to be as willing to serve God as she was. Each of us needs to pray to seek God's will for our lives.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:

**“Called to Serve”
(LUKE 1:26–38)**

WORD UNSCRAMBLE

(Draw a line from the first column word to its *scrambled* self in the second column.)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. SERVANT | a. NROB |
| 2. LUKE | b. NOCUIIS |
| 3. ANGEL | c. DDHNNADIA |
| 4. GABRIEL | d. NOS |
| 5. MARY | e. BAJOC |
| 6. JESUS | f. VAIDD |
| 7. BORN | g. ZREANTHA |
| 8. HANDMAID | h. STIGEHH |
| 9. GALILEE | i. ETNVSRA |
| 10. SON | j. LGAEN |
| 11. DAVID | k. INGK |
| 12. NAZARETH | l. DROL |
| 13. ELISABETH | m. KULE |
| 14. COUSIN | n. AREGBIL |
| 15. FEAR | o. EPISSMOBL |
| 16. JACOB | p. YRMA |
| 17. KING | q. ELEAILG |
| 18. HIGHEST | r. EHTESILAB |
| 19. LORD | s. RFAE |
| 20. IMPOSSIBLE | t. SEJSU |

"Called to Serve"
(LUKE 1:26–38)

1. "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary." **LUKE 1:26-27**
TRUE OR FALSE

2. "And having come in, the angel said to her, 'Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!' " **LUKE 1:28**
TRUE OR FALSE

3. "Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.' " **LUKE 1:30**
TRUE OR FALSE

4. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name ____." **LUKE 1:31**
JOHN JOSEPH JESUS NATHANIEL MOSES

5. "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David." **LUKE 1:32**
TRUE OR FALSE

6. The angel told Mary, "Now indeed, ____ your relative has also conceived a son in her old age." **LUKE 1:36**
EVE ELIZABETH LOUISE SARAH JOSEPHINE

7. "For with _____ nothing will be impossible." **LUKE 1:37**
GOD MEN PEOPLE JUDGES KINGS

8. "Then Mary said, 'Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her." **LUKE 1:38**
TRUE OR FALSE

**"Called to Serve"
(LUKE 1:26-38)**

MEMORY VERSE: "Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38).



"Gabriel is sent by God to give Mary a special message. She shall bring forth a son, and shall call His name JESUS." *Luke 1:26-38*