



**Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson for December 7, 2008
Released on Wednesday, December 3, 2008**

"Mary's Choice to Obey"

Lesson: Luke 1:46—55.

Devotional Reading: 1 Samuel 2:1—10.

Background Scripture: Luke 1:26—38, 46—55.

Read: Luke 1:26—38, 46—55.

Place: hill country of Judea

Time: 7 or 6 B.C.

GOLDEN TEXT: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:46—47).

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:

Luke 1:46—55

46And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

47And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

48For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

49For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

50And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

51He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

53He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

54He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;

55As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON

An old chorus by a writer now unknown starts by assuring us that "God's way is the best way. God's way is the right way." This quarter's lessons will bring our children the stories of many Bible men and women who did commit themselves to God and His way.

The lessons will also point out what good things God made happen because His children obeyed.

The Scripture passages studied will provide repeated opportunities to lay emphasis on the goodness and wisdom of our heavenly Father. Week after week the Bible stories will show our boys and girls that doing what God wants brings good to others as well as joy to themselves.

Someone once commented that "the best-kept secret of the century is doing the will of God makes you happy." The experience of Mary, the main character in the quarter's first lesson, certainly highlights the truth of that statement.

An angel had just visited Mary, bringing her the mind-staggering news that, of all women on earth, God had chosen her to be the mother of His promised Messiah.

Probably to encourage Mary's faith, the angel told her other news that also seemed beyond belief. It was news that could be confirmed almost at once. Her relative Elisabeth, who was far too old to have children, was about to bear a son, "for with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). This part of the angelic message was the equivalent of saying, "With God nothing is too difficult, Mary, not even that. You can believe what He tells you."

So when the angel had gone, Mary determined to visit Elisabeth. Here was one with whom she could share her own amazing news. The Bible tells us she lost no time in going.

Elisabeth joyfully greeted Mary at the door, calling her "The mother of my Lord" (Luke 1:43). How did she know that? One thinks of what Jesus would later say to Peter. "Flesh and blood" had not revealed to Peter who Jesus was, but "my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 16:17).

Immediately Mary burst into praise. It was a joyful song, an outpouring of praise and an expression of her joy to be fitting into God's program. She was playing a part in His eternal plan. Perhaps the century's best-kept secret really is that doing the will if God makes you happy.

Clearly the message to the boys and girls for the entire quarter is "God's way is best. Trust Him and obey."

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

To teach that God makes good things happen when we choose to do things His way.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. When we do things God's way, other people are helped.
2. When we do things God's way, He gets some of His work done in the world.
3. Doing things God's way makes us happy.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For Telling the Lesson, find pictures of the Annunciation and a manger scene. Make three flash cards: "God's way," and cross, and "others." The flash cards will also be used in Telling How to Live.

For Helping to Remember, each of the children will need crayons and a half sheet of blue construction paper.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Roger and Sally were in the ice-cream store trying to decide which kind of cone they would buy. Roger thought he wanted chocolate. Sally finally decided she did not want a cone at all. She wanted an ice-cream bar. But they both tried to make a good choice.

Michael had something harder to decide than what kind of ice cream to buy. Mom had said, "Now, be sure to come home right after school." But Michael wanted to stay to play ball with his friends for a while. Should he do something fun, or should he do what Mom said?

I am pleased to tell you that Michael decided to go home. That made Mom happy, and Michael himself was happy that he had made the right choice.

Today's Bible story is about making the best choice of all.

TELLING THE LESSON:

An angel had just been at Mary's house. God had sent him to tell Mary some good news. (Show Mary and angel.) Who remembers what that good news was? (Call on one child to tell you.)

Yes, it was the news that God was about to send a Saviour into the world to take away people's sins. God's way of sending Him was to have Him born as a baby. (Show manger scene.)

Now, God's way of doing things is always best, and He knew that coming as a baby was the best way for Jesus to come. That meant His Son, Jesus, would need a mother. And God chose Mary to be the baby's mother.

I am sure you remember too what Mary said when she found out what God wanted her to do. (Let someone tell you.)

Now, Mary could have said, "Oh, pick somebody else," but she did not say that. She said yes. She was happy to do whatever the Lord wanted her to do. She knew God's way was right. (Show "God's way" flash card.) Still, it was hard to believe that such a wonderful thing would happen to her.

So before the angel went back to heaven, he told Mary a bit of news about what God was doing for somebody else. He said, "Mary, your relative Elisabeth is going to have a baby boy too, even though she is old. See? Nothing is too hard for God to do."

That was something for Mary to remember, and it is something for us to remember too. God is always strong enough to do anything that needs to be done.

Right away Mary probably thought, "I know what I will do. I will go to see Elisabeth and tell her about the angel and what he said."

So Mary got ready. Then she traveled up and down, up and down, over the hills to the town where Elisabeth lived. When she got there, she went straight to Elisabeth's house.

The Bible says she greeted Elisabeth at the door. Maybe she did that by calling, "Elisabeth! It is Mary." We do not know.

We do know that God somehow let Elisabeth know about Mary's baby. We are sure of that because the first thing Elisabeth said was not, "Hello, Mary," But, "Oh, God has made you the most special of all women! Your baby is most special! God will do just what he told you He would do." Then Elisabeth said, "Oh, who am I that the mother of my Lord should even come to my house?"

You see? Elisabeth knew that Mary's baby was the Son of God.

All at once Mary felt she just had to sing, and she did. What Mary sang was not the kind of song we sing. It may not have sounded like a song. There was no background music, but the words were beautiful.

Mary's song said she wanted to say good things about God, and that is what she did. She said He was strong and wise and kind and good. She said He does what is right and He keeps His promises. She said He had done great things for her. She said He had made her full of great happiness. She said that now all people would say He had been especially good to her.

Of course, you know that even today we still say Mary was a special woman. God chose her to be the mother of Jesus, the One who was coming to take away the sins of the world.

Boys and girls, just stop and think of some of the good things that happened because Mary said she would do things God's way. (Show the flash card "God's way.")

First, God used her obedience to do something He wanted to do for all the people of the world. When He sent Mary's baby, He was sending the world Someone to die for us all and take away our sins. (Show cross.)

Because Mary chose God's way so long ago, you and I and all the other people who believe in Jesus can have Him as our Lord and Saviour and Friend today. That makes us thankful and happy. And because Mary chose to go God's way, she had extra happiness too.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Good things still happen when people choose to do things God's way. (Show "God's way.")

Other people get what they need when we obey God. (Show "others.") He uses us to do and say the things other people need done and said, and that helps them.

Just like Mary, we too are happy when we do what God says to do. We know we have pleased Jesus when we do what His Book tells us, and that makes us happy.

When we believe and obey God, what He wants done in the world gets accomplished. Mary believed God and wanted to do things His way. God used her to bring our Saviour into the world. (Show cross.)

Shall we say, "Yes, Lord. I want to do things Your way too"? (Teacher, lead in prayer. As an option, ask whether anyone would like to tell Him that.)

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Have the children draw a road from the lower left corner of their paper to the upper right. Above the beginning of the road they will draw themselves, smiling. Beneath the road they should print "I will go God's way."

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:46—47).

"Soul" and "spirit" both mean the part of us that thinks and loves and chooses. When people are very happy, we say they are rejoicing. A magnifying glass makes something look big and important. We "magnify" God when we say good things about Him.

God had just let Mary know that He wanted her to be the mother of His own Son. In reply Mary said she was happy to obey God and be Jesus' mother. We would say she felt like jumping for joy.

MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:

"Mary's Choice to Obey"
(Luke 1:46–55.)



"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour"
(Luke 1:46–47 KJV).

MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:
"Mary's Choice to Obey"
(Luke 1:46–55.)

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

1. "And Mary said, My [TEMPLE, SOUL] doth magnify the Lord." Luke 1:46
2. "And my spirit hath [REJOICED, QUIETED] in God my Saviour." Luke 1:47
3. "For he hath [REMEMBERED, REGARDED] the estate of his handmaiden: for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me [ORDINARY, BLESSED]." Luke 1:48
4. "For He that is [MIGHTY, MISERABLE] hath done to me great things; and [UNKNOWN, HOLY] is his name." Luke 1:49

TRUE OR FALSE:

5. Mary said that God's mercy was over those who feared him from generation to generation. Luke 1:50 TRUE OR FALSE
6. Mary said that God had shown weakness in his arm; that He made closer together those who were proud in their own desires and imaginations. Luke 1:51 TRUE OR FALSE
7. Mary said that God had made those who thought they were mighty, low; and He had made those who were of low degree to be exalted. Luke 1:52 TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

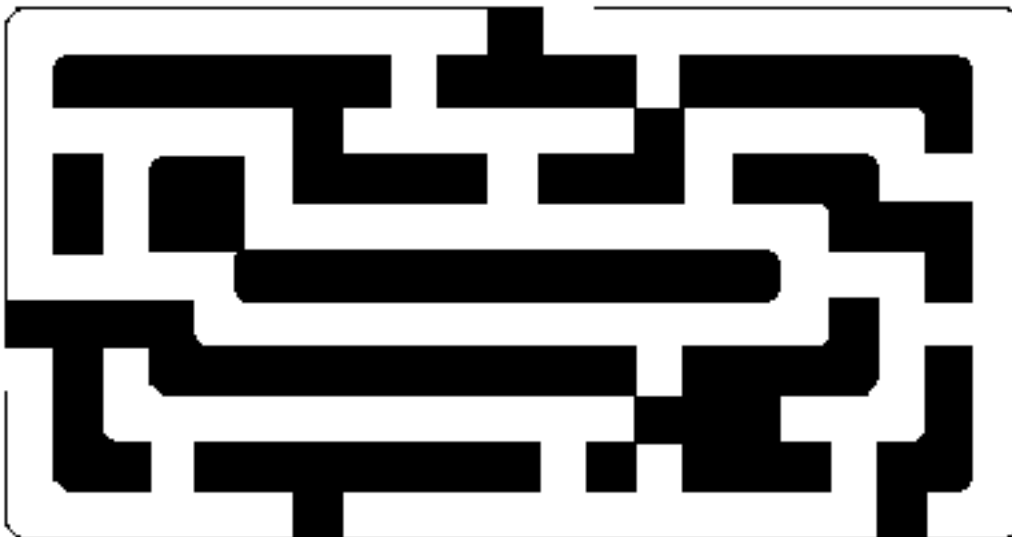
8. "He hath filled the [HEAVENLY, HUNGRY] with good things; and the [RICH, RETIRED] he hath sent empty away." Luke 1:53
9. "He hath holpen his servant [JOSEPH, ISRAEL], in remembrance of his [MAIDSERVANT, MERCY]." Luke 1:54
10. "As he spake to our [FRIENDS, FATHERS], to Abraham, and to his [SEED, SITUATION] for ever." Luke 1:55

MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:
"Mary's Choice to Obey"
(Luke 1:46–55.)

H G J K I N G D O M A R Y B E
J A M F E N G A B R I E L K I
S T N J N R S G U V J P W G N
R N R Q J T I R I P S Y L O H
V B M E T G A L I L E E W J A
J K D P N N T F V D R O W E V
D L E G A A A I W K L F V S I
U D L G H G Z V A B B H H U D
V O B L N I O A R M N J W S I
C H U Y D K Y Y R E B O S L A
G Y O T Y A T M T E S K S E R
O Q R P W F V R Z S T D R G F
Q K T R E J O I C E K H I N A
A G I V C T T A D D R O L A W
E O D E R O V A F H N Z V P M

AFRAID	HOLY	SPIRIT
ANGEL	JESUS	REJOICE
DAVID	KINGDOM	SON
FAVORED	LORD	TROUBLED
GABRIEL	WORD	MAIDSERVANT
GALILEE	MARY	NAZARETH

MUSTARD SEED LESSON MAZE:



CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWER THAT COMPLETES THIS TEXT:

1. "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit..." **Luke 1:46–47.**

- a. is sad that the baby will not be a girl
- b. can not feel the presence of God
- c. hath rejoiced in God my Saviour
- d. is looking for my cousin Elisabeth
- e. will not always obey the Word of God

FILL IN THE BLANK:

2. "He hath shewed _____ with his arm; he hath scattered the _____ in the imagination of their hearts" **Luke 1:51.**

LOWLINESS

STRENGTH

HONOR

HUNGRY

PROUD

Lesson Summarized by:

Kimbley Y. Baker-Richardson

Jesus Is All Ministries

www.jesuisall.com

WORKS CITED

Summary and commentary derived from Standard Lesson Commentary Copyright© 2008 by permission of Standard Publishing.

Reprinted by permission of The Incorporated Trustees of the Gospel Worker Society, Union Gospel Press, P.O. Box 6059, Cleveland, Ohio 44101. (Web site: <http://www.uniongospelpress.com/>)

The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.