



Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for December 13, 2009
Released on Wednesday, December 9, 2009

"An Angel's News for Mary"

Lesson Text: Isaiah 7:13-17; Luke 1:30-30

Background Scripture: Isaiah 7:13-17; Luke 1:26-38

Memory Verse: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

Isaiah 7:13-17

13 And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

15 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

16 For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.

17 The Lord shall bring upon thee, and upon thy people, and upon thy father's house, days that have not come, from the day that Ephraim departed from Judah; even the king of Assyria.

Luke 1:30-38

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

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

32 He 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:

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

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

35 And 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.

36 And, 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.

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

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

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Help the children understand that when Jesus was here on earth, God was living among us, for Jesus is God.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Jesus did not have a human (biological) father; His Father is God.
2. One of Jesus' names, Immanuel, tells who He was: "God with us."
3. Because of who Jesus is, we respect, trust, thank, and obey Him.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, you will need a picture showing a six- to eight-year-old girl and her family at the dinner table.

For Telling the Lesson, have pictures of the following: Isaiah, a king, Mary, the annunciation (the announcement to the Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel of the incarnation of Christ), and Jesus. If you have no chalkboard, print a sign reading "Immanuel."

For Helping to Remember, each student will need crayons, paste, three yellow 3-by-4-inch pieces of paper, and a half sheet of white construction paper cut lengthwise. Prepare each long half sheet by drawing two crosswise lines, creating three sections.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student to review keywords from the lesson.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: about 734 B.C.; 6 or 5 B.C.

Place: Jerusalem; Nazareth

Who was Jesus? Incredibly, it is possible for a child to spend years in Sunday school and never know. It may take a while, even for faithful Sunday school attendees, to realize that Jesus existed before Bethlehem. What about you? Who was Jesus? A man? Yes. A miracle worker? Yes. A spokesman for God? Yes. But Jesus was someone profoundly more than all those! Who was Jesus? This week's lesson will give your students the answer. In fact, the answer to that question is given twice (once from the Old Testament and once from the New Testament).

Ahaz, ruler of Judah, the southern kingdom, had heard some troubling news. The breakaway northern kingdom had allied itself with Syria, and the two were plotting to attack. God sent His messenger Isaiah to the king to bring encouragement. The plot would fail.

Isaiah's message also included words that Ahaz could not possibly have understood at the time. A virgin would bear a son, and this son's name would be Immanuel.

Centuries later, Luke (chapter 1) would indicate that Isaiah's prophecy looked forward to the birth of Messiah. The answer to the question "Who was Jesus?" is found in that prophecy.

Gabriel brought to Mary the same message. Though a virgin, she would have a son. Mary and her baby needed earthly care, and in Joseph God provided that. He would become Jesus' legal father. But Joseph was not Jesus' biological father.

God Himself was Jesus' Father. Therefore the "holy thing" born of Mary could be called the "Son of God" (Luke 1:35), and Isaiah could give that "holy thing" another, highly descriptive name - "Immanuel," meaning "God with us." So who was Jesus? He was God, living among us - God dwelling in a human body, God preaching the Sermon on the Mount, God opening blind eyes, God stilling a storm. Even His disciples said, "What manner of man is this!" (Luke 8:25). God with us - that was who! Let the children know that we cannot understand how anyone can be God and man at the same time. But we believe Jesus was both because God says so.

You may find yourself teaching this lesson with unusual joy and enthusiasm. That is an appropriate response to meditating on who Jesus really was - and is. So teach, enjoy, and praise!

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Every day Marcy's father asked the same question at the dinner table. (Show family.) "Well, Marcy, what is the news from school today?"

Today she could hardly wait for him to ask. "Oh, today was an extra-good-news day!" she said. "I got smiling faces on all my papers. After that Miss Bennett picked my Christmas picture to put on the hall bulletin board. And it was my day to be leader going to the gym, and then she gave us an extra-long recess because we all got our work done so fast. Are you surprised?"

"Whew," Dad said. "That was a lot of good news, and I am surprised."

Today's Bible lesson is about two other people who heard some surprising good news. Their surprising news came from God. I wonder what kind of news *they* heard.

TELLING THE LESSON:

The story starts with God's man Isaiah. (Show Isaiah.) One day long ago, God gave Isaiah some news to take to King Ahaz, and part of that news was the extra-good kind. It was about something wonderful and surprising that had never, ever happened before.

Isaiah went up to the palace to see the king. (Show king.) There were some other things God wanted King Ahaz to know too, but then Isaiah came to the special part. "Someday," he said, "a woman will have a baby boy." (Show Mary.) Well, what was special or surprising about that? Baby boys were born all the time.

The special thing about this baby boy, Isaiah said, was that no father would be needed. Now you know there always have to be *both* a father and a mother for there to be a new baby. But not this time!

So how could that be? The king surely could not have known what Isaiah meant. For a long time afterward, nobody would understand. But then one day, after a long, long time, it really happened.

Here is the way it happened. A woman named Mary was doing something in her house one day when all at once an angel came and began talking to her! (Show annunciation.) It was the Angel Gabriel. God had sent him.

First he said words that meant hello. Then he told Mary he was bringing some news from God. Out of all the women in the world, he said, God had chosen *her* for something extra special.

Well, Mary did not know what he meant by those words. She felt mixed-up and afraid.

Right away Gabriel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is pleased with you. You are going to have a baby boy. You shall name your son Jesus. He shall be called the Son of the Highest, and He will be King forever and ever."

Now Mary felt even more mixed-up. (Show Mary.) She knew there was no father for a baby. "How can that happen?" she asked.

The angel told her it could happen because God would do it. God Himself would be the baby's father, and that is why her baby would be the Son of God. Such a thing had never, ever happened before, but the Bible says God can make happen anything He wants. Nothing is too hard for Him.

Well, what do you think Mary said when she heard that? Did she say, "Oh, that would never happen"? Or even, "Such a thing is too wonderful to happen to me"? No, what Mary said was "All right. Let it happen to me just as you have said."

The angel went back to heaven then. He had done what God sent him to do.

Now you know something King Ahaz did not know. (Show king.) You know *why* Jesus never had a human father like the rest of us. Joseph would take care of Mary and her baby, but God was Jesus' Father.

Isaiah did not know the baby would be named Jesus, either; but he did know one of His other names. Isaiah said the baby would be called "Immanuel." (Print on chalkboard, or show the sign "Immanuel.") Immanuel means "God with us."

Can anyone think of *why* one of Jesus' names would be Immanuel? (Allow a moment for thinking.) It is because Jesus is God's Son; so when God's Son was living here on earth, it was really God who was living with us. Yes, Jesus was truly a man, and on the outside He looked like any other man. (Show Jesus.) But at the same time, He was really God too. (Show or point to "Immanuel.") The baby in the manger was God with us.

We cannot really understand how someone could be both man and God at the same time. But God says Jesus was, and God knows.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

So what does our lesson say to us today? It says we should remember. When you talk to Jesus, remember Who it is you are talking to. Remember Who gave His life for you on the cross. Remember to always say His name in a polite way. Remember to do what He says because of who He is. Remember that since Jesus is God, you have a strong Helper who is able to do anything that needs doing.

When you remember all those things about Jesus, what do you feel like doing? Let us say thank You right now. Who would like to thank Him?

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Let the children color the top section of their papers blue to represent heaven and the bottom section green for earth.

On one 3-by-4-inch paper they should print "Jesus Is God" and paste it to the middle of the center section. Another piece of paper will say "In Heaven" and be pasted above in the blue section. They should print "On Earth" on the third piece of paper and paste it to the green portion. Draw a black arrow from "Jesus Is God" to the blue area and another from "Jesus Is God" to the green area.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

Long ago the Lord made this promise to a king. Someday, He said, a woman would have a baby boy even though there was no one to be the baby's father.

Such a special thing could happen only because God Himself would be the Father of that baby. He would be God's Son, not Joseph's. That was why one of His names was to be "Immanuel," which means "God with us." When Immanuel was here, God was here. Another name for that baby is Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus Christ did not just happen on the scene. The circumstances of His birth were foretold in the pages of the Old Testament. Isaiah gave one of the greatest prophecies in all of Scripture. Hundreds of years after Isaiah's time, the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and gave her the same prophecy.

Mary found the message difficult to understand. Although she could not fully understand what was happening, she willingly accepted what God planned. Mary's son would be "God with us"!

PRAYER:

Father God, thank You for sending Jesus to be "God with us." Help us to trust and obey You, just like Mary did, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "Jesus' Birth" (Christmas) and will show that Jesus was born just as God had said that He would be. Study Matthew 1:18-25.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:

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WORD SEARCH

"An Angel's News for Mary" (Isaiah 7:13-17; Luke 1:30-38)

Find each of these keywords from the lesson:

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| CHILD | HOLY GHOST | FAVOR | BIRTH |
| NEWS | MARY | PROPHET | GREAT |
| IMPOSSIBLE | KINGDOM | GOOD | ISAIAH |
| SIGN | IMMANUEL | ANGEL | JESUS |

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SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH

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