



12/4/11

### Luke 1:26-33 and 35-38: The Birth of Jesus Foretold

#### Opening Activity

Ask the children to explain to you how they think they might feel if an angel suddenly appeared to them and began telling them a message from God. Today we will learn about a time when God sent an angel to tell about Jesus coming to live on the Earth.

#### Read Luke 1:26-33 and 35-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. . . The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

#### Summarize Luke 1:26-33 and 35-38

In this story God sends an angel named Gabriel to tell a woman named Mary that she was going to have a baby, and that baby would be Jesus! When the angel told Mary this she was very puzzled at first, but she knew that with God all things are possible. The angel told Mary that God would use his Holy Spirit to make a baby grow inside her and when the baby is born she is to name him Jesus. God told her that this child would be called the Son of the Most High, or the Son of God!

#### Question 1

How do you think Mary felt when the angel appeared and began talking to her?

*Allow them to answer. Mary was puzzled by this at first.*

#### Question 2

Why was this so important to Mary?

*God had promised long ago to send someone to free people from their sins (Jesus), and she was going to be a part of this!*

#### Question 3

What does Mary say in the end?

*She is the Lord's servant, and she trusts that His ways are perfect and are best for her!*

#### Wrap Up

Remind the children that God Jesus was sent by God. He lived a sinless life and died on the cross for our sins so that we can be friends with God. Then He was raised from the dead and is now King of everything! When we believe this, God sends His Holy Spirit to live in us and to guide our lives. This is the same Holy Spirit that was at work inside of Mary! Remind the kids that God's ways are always best for us, that God is faithful, and that He loves us so much. Pray with the children and encourage them to talk to their parents if they have any questions about what it means to believe in Jesus.