

Adventures with GOD!

MARY AND HER FAITH ADVENTURE (B.3.SPRING.3)

Biblical Reference	Luke 1:26-56
Key Verse	Luke 1:38
Key Concept	I want to be open to be used by God like Mary was.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell how God spoke to Mary and the special role she was given 2. Explain Mary's reaction and share part of her song 3. Give thanks to God that Mary was open to being used by God

Life Application

Although we can often feel incapable of living for God in obedience, we have to remember that God never asks us the impossible. God's Spirit enables us to follow God and live for God. The openness to God and the willingness to be used by God are characteristics that we find in Mary. Her faith was remarkable in light of what God was asking her to do. Like Mary, we are asked to trust God and be used by God.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Activity	Large sheets of paper, markers	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, time machine	10 minutes
Key Verse		5 minutes
Craft	Paper, markers, pens, tape, scissors	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Luke 1:26-38 twice and ask children to respond.

Question Examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the passage?

Activity: Invite children to help you make another picture for the mural. Use large sheets of paper or cardstock and have children come up with a way to represent Mary.

Bible Exploration: Make sure to have a volunteer ready to play the part of Mary. Invite children to get the time machine ready and ask someone to push the buttons. Everyone should get involved in making the noises for the time machine. Introduce children to Mary and continue with the Bible Exploration (see dialogue option on page 5).



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Activity: Prepare strips of paper (4 inches x 10 inches; white or different colored paper). Each strip of paper can have a different portion of the story represented on it. The idea is for children to illustrate the story of Mary through words/phrases/ illustrations. Children can work individually or in groups; encourage them to use at least 4-5 strips of paper. Have children share their work with the other children in the class, or assign each child one portion of the story and give them one strip of paper, then at the end they can join their story segments together.

Key Verse: The Key Verse for this lesson shows the attitude Mary had when she was invited by God to play a key role in the story of God. Mary was open to what God wanted. Ask children what this looks like in their own lives; ask them to give practical examples of what it means to obey God and step out on faith. Then have children come up with actions or a melody for the Key Verse.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G=God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W=Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.



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Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen



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BIBLE EXPLORATION

Questions for Mary

Mary (dressed accordingly): Hello, where am I? What is going on?

Question #1 – You are right, you are in _____. We just wanted to meet you and ask you some questions. Can you tell us something about yourself?

Mary: Of course, there is so much to tell. My name is Mary and so much has happened lately. Where to begin?

Question #2 – But you aren't that old. We thought you would be older. How can you have so much to tell.?

Mary: Well, when you decide to trust in God and obey God, life is never boring. But you are right, I am just a young woman. I could be your older sister. I am from a town called Nazareth. It is so small that there is only one water well for the whole town.

Question #3 – Do you still live with your parents?

Mary: No, I live with my husband. I know it seems crazy, but there is so much to the story. You see I've always loved and followed God. I just never knew it would bring so many surprises.

Question #4 – What kind of surprises?

Mary: Well for one, I was visited by an angel. It was Gabriel, the angel. Imagine! He came to my town to talk to me!

Question #5 – Why would an angel want to talk to you?

Mary: I thought he had the wrong person. But he knew my name and he said, "Mary don't be afraid. You've found favor with God." He told me that I was going to have a baby, and that I would give birth to the son of God.

Question #6 – But how is that even possible? You told us you were just a young woman?

Mary: That's what I wanted to know. But the angel assured me that I had nothing to worry about. The angel said that God's Spirit would make it possible. All I needed was to be willing

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and open to play this role. The angel also told me that my older cousin, Elizabeth, was also going to have a baby. This was a miracle. I had to see it with my own eyes.

Question #7 – So what did you do?

Mary: I went to see my cousin. I went to help during her pregnancy. But the minute I arrived, she got so excited to see me that baby inside her did a little jump of joy. And she prophesied over me and over the baby that was growing inside of me. It was a precious time together. My heart was so full. I even composed a song to tell of my experience. Would you like to hear it? (Have the person representing Mary read Luke 1: 46-55).

Question #8 – Still, this experience couldn't have been easy, was it?

Mary: No it wasn't. It required faith and trust in God. People didn't understand what was going on. There were rumors, etc. My poor fiancé Joseph suffered, but stood by my side. We were married and had to travel a long distance right about the time the baby was to be born because a census was being taken. The baby was born when we were far from home, in a place called Bethlehem, in a yucky, dirty stable. It wasn't easy. But God was faithful. I still can't believe that God chose me for this miracle. It isn't easy to follow God at times, but I've learned that there really isn't any other way to live. Life with God is an adventure.