

Adventures with GOD!

AN ANGEL TALKS WITH MARY (A.1.WINTER.1)

Biblical Reference	Luke 1:26-38
Key Verse	Luke 1:30
Key Concept	Like the angels, I can be God's helper.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain what an angel is 2. Say the name of Jesus' mother 3. Act out in a drama the encounter between Mary and the angel Gabriel

Life Application

The story of the birth of Jesus is extremely significant for our lives, because it's the story of how God became one of us to save us. One of the focuses of this story is the participation of the angels in the arrival of the Messiah, Jesus. They announced his birth. For little children it is not difficult to believe in heavenly beings. That's why it's important for them to learn that the angels are God's helpers, and that we can also be God's helpers. It is also important for the children to see how the people responded when they heard about Jesus' arrival. The children can respond in their own ways to the news that we can be Jesus' helpers.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Introduction	angels	10 minutes
Bible Story	Illustrations, Bible, faces	10 minutes
Song, prayer	Music and instruments	10 minutes
Craft	Picture, crayons, card/poster board, pattern, aluminum paper, string/yarn, pieces of fabric, glue, crayons, paints	10 minutes
Bible Verse	Illustration	5 minutes
Gift	White paper, a disposable spoon, tape, scissors, crayons	15 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute



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INSTRUCTIONS

Opening Prayer

Gather children around a 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. Light the candle

Prayer: God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen

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

Introduction: During the next couple of weeks the children will be studying about the importance of angels and their participation in God's kingdom. It's necessary that children learn about angels and what the Bible says about them. It will be interesting for them to see "illustrations" and drawings of angels. You can find different images of angles on Christmas cards, books, encyclopedias, illustrated Bibles. There are all sorts of different representations of what angels look like. Help them to understand that we don't really know what they look like but that the Bible says that sometimes they can look just like people. Tell them that we can't see angels, but that they are real. They help us, they protect us, etc. In the Bible we find stories that tell us how angels were God's messengers.

Bible Story: Find a book with Bible stories for little children that includes the announcement of Jesus' birth (Luke 1:26-38) or you can make your own type of illustrations, drawings, or use what is included in this lesson. If it's possible, it would be interesting during the introduction if a person dressed in white suddenly came into the classroom and announced that Jesus is going to be born. It might be a bit surprising and even scary for the children to have this person show up when they aren't expecting it, but explain that is exactly how young Mary felt when Gabriel came to her house. Remind them that the angels almost always greeted people with "Don't be afraid." Help them to think about how Mary must have felt. Tell the story of when Gabriel came to her and what her response was. Narrate it in brief form, pausing as you tell the story. Remember that often children of this age don't have a long attention span and it's better to keep the story brief and continue with other activities that reinforce the Biblical message. As you finish telling the story, use the first circle and put it on the wall or the white board. Draw a happy face. Explain that Mary was happy and ready to serve God. The first face for the trimester represents Mary.

Song and Prayer: The majority of children learn to pray while listening to others. Teach them simple prayers, like "Thank you God for sending the angel Gabriel to Mary to tell her that she would have baby Jesus. Help me to be ready to serve you like Mary was."

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Look for a song (possibly a Christmas carol) that you can sing each Sunday. Learn the song together that talks about Jesus' birth and find a time to present it to the rest of the congregation.

Craft: There are a lot of different possibilities for crafts this trimester. Today the children can color the same illustration that you used to tell the story. They could also make an angel that they can hang from their Christmas tree, or one in the classroom if you have it.

Bible Verse: The children at this age don't know how to read so we have to help them to memorize Bible verses using visual clues instead of words. It would be interesting to use the picture or image of an angel and of Mary to help them remember the two primary characters in the verse.

Gift: In this lesson you will find instructions to make a gift that the children can take home the last Sunday before Christmas Day (Dec. 25th).

Closing Prayer

Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle

Prayer: Thank you God for loving us, Thank you God for sending your son Jesus into the world.

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ILLUSTRATION



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CRAFT

Angel for the Christmas Tree

Christmas is an important time of joy when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We sing carols, decorate our houses and give thanks to God for the greatest gift of all - Jesus. The children can make this angel to celebrate Jesus' birthday. The angel helps us remember that they announced the birth of Jesus to various people. The children can hang this angel on their Christmas tree or hang it in a window.



Note: Make the angel out of thicker paper for each child. Give them pieces of aluminum paper, yarn, fabric, etc. they can glue on the angel. Or they can simply color it. Make a hole in the upper part and pass a piece of yarn/string through it so they can hang it up at home.

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GIFT

Angles for the table

Materials: white paper, disposable spoon, tape, scissors, crayons, markers.

Instructions:

1. Use these instructions to make an angel, using the images below as a guide.
2. Roll the piece of white paper to make a cone, using tape to keep it together.
3. Cut the upper part of the cone and put the spoon in.
4. Cut the base part so it is the same height as the spoon.
5. Cut a pair of wings and tape them on.
6. Draw a face on the spoon.

