

## Lesson #3-15

# *Mary and Elizabeth's Visitors*

Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]



### Key Verse:

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:38

### The Point:

Nothing is impossible with God.



## *Introduction*

An angel appeared to Mary who lived in Nazareth. The angel announced that she would have a baby boy, and name him Jesus. He will be the Son of God, and his kingdom will last forever. The angel told Mary that the Holy Spirit will make this happen. The angel reminded Mary that nothing is impossible with God! Mary said, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your will." Mary hurried to see her relative Elizabeth. Elizabeth knew that Mary had been chosen for something very special. Mary sang a song of praise to God.

### The Point

**Nothing is impossible with God.** By sending Jesus, God brings hope and reveals the depth of God's love. Nothing is impossible with God. In today's story we see God doing the impossible through ordinary people like Mary and Elizabeth. We often expect a mighty God to be among the mighty, powerful, rich, and famous people. However, God is always at work turning our assumptions on their heads. The Messiah came for those on the margins of society, just as he came for those in lofty positions. Our God walks with people in all areas of life. God's love is for everyone.

# Activities a la Carte

## Activities

## Supplies

### Introduction

#### *Faces of Surprise*

Guess different faces.

5 min.

- † Bowl or bag
- † Slips of paper
- † Pen or marker

### Learning the Story

#### *Here I Am*

Sharing facts about people and places.

10 min.

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-15.A

### Activities

#### *Pray Without Ceasing Charades*

Act out daily scenarios.

10 min.

- † None

#### *Advent Mural*

Complete the Advent mural.

5 min.

- † Advent mural from Lessons #3-12 through #3-14
- † Washable paint or ink pad
- † Yellow or orange paper
- † Hand wipes
- † Optional: plate

### Prayer

# God's Story @ Home



## Introduction (5 minutes)

### Faces of Surprise

Guess different faces.

#### Supplies:

- † Bowl or bag
- † Slips of paper
- † Pen or marker

#### Preparation:

1. Write the following emotions on slips of paper and fold them in half.

|        |           |          |
|--------|-----------|----------|
| Happy  | Sad       | Confused |
| Scared | Surprised | Excited  |
| Tired  | Angry     |          |
2. Place the folded slips of paper in a bowl or bag.

#### Instructions:

1. Invite one person to draw a slip of paper from the bowl or bag. Have them stand where they can be seen, and act out the emotion on the slip of paper.
2. Encourage everyone else to guess the emotion. The person who guesses correctly may choose to draw the next slip. Continue until all slips have been correctly guessed.
3. **You all did a great job guessing lots of different emotions! Today we are going to focus on a few of those. We are going to hear a story about Mary. An angel came to visit Mary, and first, she was very surprised. Can you make your best surprised face? After the angel shared his message with Mary, she was a little confused. What do you think her face looked like then? In the end, she might have been a little worried, but she trusted God. She told her relative Elizabeth what happened and Elizabeth was so happy! What do you think her happy face looked like?**

## *Learning the Story (10 minutes)*

### *Here I Am*

Sharing facts about people and places.

#### *Supplies:*

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-15.A

#### *Preparation:*

1. Make copies of Activity Sheet #3-15.A.
2. Cut out cards.

#### *Instructions:*

1. Hand out cards from Activity Sheet #3-15.A.
2. **I am going to tell the story of Mary, but as we go through the story there are some key words. If I ask for the word on your card, I want you to say, “Here I am!” Then, read your card aloud, or invite someone else to read it.**
3. Begin to read the story found in Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]. At each key word noted in ALL CAPS (below) stop and ask who has that card. The person with that card should respond “Here I am.” Invite them to read the fact on their card before you move one with the story.
4. **An ANGEL was sent to a young woman named MARY who lived in a small town called NAZARETH. She was engaged to marry JOSEPH. The angel said “Greetings favored one! The Lord is with you!” Mary was confused and surprised by the angel’s greeting. She wondered what he meant. The angel told her that she would have a BABY. He will be great, the Son of God, and his kingdom will last forever. Mary asked how this could be, because she had not married Joseph yet; she was not ready to start a family. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit will make this happen. He also told her that her relative, ELIZABETH, who had never been able to have a baby, was going to have a son, too. The angel reminded Mary that nothing is impossible with God! Mary said, “Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your will.”**



The angel left and Mary hurried to see Elizabeth to share with her what the angel said, and to see if it was true that Elizabeth would also have a baby. Elizabeth was so **EXCITED** to see Mary. She knew that Mary had been chosen for something very special. She said that Mary was blessed because she believed what the angel had told her. Mary sang a **SONG OF PRAISE** to God, remembering all that God had done and that God is faithful, good, merciful, and cares for everyone.

5. There were lots of surprises in this story. Can you think of which characters might have been surprised?
6. In this story, Mary did something that was perhaps unexpected, brave, and faithful: she said, "Here I am, let it be with me according to your Word." Even though this was surprising news that she would have Baby Jesus, and she might not have felt ready or that she was the right person, she trusted God. When God called her for this important job, she said, "Here I am." God calls us to help share Jesus with the world too. When God does this, we can faithfully respond, "Here I am, God."

## *Activity (10 minutes)*

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### *Pray Without Ceasing Charades*

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Act out daily scenarios.

*Supplies:*

† None

*Instructions:*

1. **Mary prayed a song to God right after an angel visited her. It is important to remember that we can pray at any time. No matter where we are or what we are doing we can say a short prayer. We are going to play a game of charades to think of how we could pray throughout the day.**
2. Invite one person forward who is willing to act out something they do every day, like brush their teeth. Encourage the others to guess what they are doing. When someone guesses, work together to think of something they could pray about while they are doing that activity. For example, if someone acts out riding the school bus, they could take a moment to ask God to help them have a great day or pray for the person sitting next to them.
3. Continue to act out a portion of a typical day and brainstorm how they could pray during that activity.
4. **Did you know that the Bible says we should “pray without ceasing?”** (1 Thessalonians 5:17). **We can pray all day long to God, even as we go about our normal activities. Prayer brings us closer to God and helps us to know how God might be inviting us to share God’s love with someone else.**

## Activity (5 minutes)

### Advent Mural

Complete the Advent mural.

#### Supplies:

- † Advent mural from Lessons #3-12 through #3-14
- † Washable paint or ink pad
- † Hand wipes
- † Yellow or orange paper
- † Optional: plate

#### Preparation:

1. Cut a flame shape from the yellow or orange paper.

#### Instructions:

1. **Just like Mary was part of God's plan to share God's love, you are part of that too. That may feel surprising because you are not very old, or not very loud, or are still just learning about God's love, but God has invited you to be part of sharing God's promise of hope.**
2. **It is almost Christmas, when we celebrate the coming of Jesus. Jesus is the best hope of all. You are invited to be part of God's plan to tell everyone about Jesus and God's love for them.**
3. **As we add our final candle to the Advent Mural, each of you will add your fingerprint or handprint as a reminder that you are chosen to share this good news. God has special plans for each of you to share this good news of Jesus!**
4. Invite people to add their fingerprint or handprint to the final candle of the Advent mural, pouring the paint onto the plate if you are using it. Have hand wipes available for them to clean their fingers or hands.
5. Place the fourth flame shape above the fourth candle.



## Prayer

Before ending, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

**When Mary was invited to be part of God's plan to redeem all of creation by sending Jesus, she said "Here I am." God invites each of us to share the hope of Jesus as well. We can do this by showing love to all people, by helping others, by telling them about God's love, by finding ways to serve and by learning more about God's word so that we are ready to tell others.**

**When God invites us to do things that share God's love, let us pray that we will, and like Mary, say, "Here I am" As we pray, let us say, "Here I am!"**

Leader: **Let us pray:**

**God of love, you sent your son Jesus to come down to earth to show us how much you love us. When there is an opportunity to love someone, let us say: "Here I am!"**

**When people are lonely, let us say:**

All: Here I am!

Leader: **You desire that all people have what they need. When people are hungry, let us say:**

All: Here I am!

Leader: **When people need shelter, let us say:**

All: Here I am!

Leader: **When people need help, let us say:**

All: Here I am!

Leader: **You want all people to know your love: When others want to hear of Jesus, let us say:**

All: Here I am!

Leader: **When people need hope, let us say:**

All: Here I am!

Leader: **And let us share the hope of your son, Jesus. Amen.**

If you have the "Living the Word: Sharing God's Story @ Home" sheet, remember to use it throughout the week as a part of your family devotions!





# Here I Am

*Sharing facts about people and places.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ANGEL</b></p> <p>Angels often appear in the Bible to deliver important messages from God. Angels can seem a little frightening, especially when you are not expecting them, so they often start by saying, “Do not be afraid.”</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MARY</b></p> <p>Mary was just a normal girl. She was very young, and engaged to marry Joseph. God had chosen her for something very special.</p>  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NAZARETH</b></p> <p>Nazareth was a small town. No one expected someone important like a king to come from Nazareth. One of Jesus’ disciples even asked, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”</p>                                | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JOSEPH</b></p> <p>Joseph was engaged to Mary, but they were not married yet. They were not expecting to start a family right now. An angel also appeared to Joseph, telling him what was going to happen. Joseph trusted the angel also, and Joseph was Jesus’ father on earth.</p>   |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BABY</b></p> <p>The angel told Mary that she would name the baby Jesus. Jesus means, “God saves.”</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ELIZABETH</b></p> <p>Elizabeth was Mary’s relative. She was also going to have a baby, which surprised her, who would be Jesus’ cousin. His name was going to be John.</p>  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXCITED</b></p> <p>The baby in Elizabeth’s belly even jumped for joy when Mary came! They were both so excited that Mary had been chosen by God for such an important job.</p>   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SONG OF PRAISE</b></p> <p>Mary sang a song of praise, which is a little like a prayer, after she found out that she would have a baby and he would be the Son of God. The psalms in the Bible are like songs of praise. Mary remembered how great God was, even though she might have been a little unsure of what would happen next.</p> |