

# ANGELS SPOKE TO MARY AND JOSEPH



## TRANSITION/GROUP TIME

### SNACK

**1s–2s:** Place the snack on the tables.

**3s–5s:** Choose children to help serve the snack. Ask a volunteer to pray.  
Remind the preschoolers to clean their snack areas.

### MOVE TO GROUP TIME

**1s–2s:** Tell the Bible story as the children snack. Then allow the children to play in the room.

**3s–5s:** Encourage the preschoolers to clap a rhythm as they move to the group-time area.

### INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

**ANGELS SPOKE TO MARY AND JOSEPH—BASED ON MATTHEW 1:18-24;  
LUKE 1:26-38**

- Mention that when people hear good news, they might clap their hands.
- Comment that God gave a woman named Mary and a man named Joseph good news. Open your Bible to Luke 1 and tell the Bible story.

### SUMMARIZE THE BIBLE STORY

(Use words in **bold** for babies–2s; all words for 3s–5s.)

- **God sent an angel named Gabriel to talk to Mary.**
- **Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid because she was chosen to be the mother of God’s Son, Jesus.**
- **While Joseph was sleeping, God sent an angel to talk to him in a dream.**
- **The angel told Joseph, “Do not be afraid to marry Mary. She will have a baby, and His name will be Jesus. He is God’s Son.”**
- Joseph remembered the dream and did everything God asked him to do.
- **Joseph married Mary, and they waited for Baby Jesus to be born.**

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Who sent the angels to talk to Mary and Joseph?
- What did the angel tell Mary?
- What was Joseph doing when the angel talked to him?
- What did the angel tell Joseph?

### EMPHASIZE THE LIFE POINT

- Say that God planned for Jesus to be born.

ROOM
YOUR TEACHING PARTNERS
DATE OF USE

### LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Angels told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would be born.

### LIFE POINT

God planned for Jesus to be born.

### UNIT VERSE

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Matthew 2:1

### WEEKLY VERSE

Mary will have a son, and you will name Him Jesus. Matthew 1:21

## SING TOGETHER

Sing to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”:

*Mary will have a son.*

*Mary will have a son.*

*Mary will have a baby son,*

*And you will name Him Jesus.*

## SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Open a Bible to Matthew 1:21. Say the verse and ask the preschoolers to repeat it after you. Sing the song above as you tap your head, then as you tap your knees.

## PRAY

Thank God for His wonderful plan for Jesus to be born. Encourage the preschoolers to state any prayer requests they have. Invite several kids to pray if they would like.

## BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

**Emphasize: God planned for Jesus to be born.**

1. **Send messages to friends.** Provide index cards, washable markers, and pencils. Talk about sending messages to other people. Mention that God sent messages to Mary and Joseph. Say that the angels told them about God’s plan for Baby Jesus to be born. Say that we can send messages to others, too. Encourage the kids to draw messages for friends or family members on their index cards.

**Adapt for Babies–2s:** Play with toy phones.

2. **Sing and shake bells.** Add three or four jingle bells on individual chenille stems and wrap the ends of each stem together to make shakers. Cover the ends with strong tape. Distribute jingle bells to each child. Play “Jesus Was Born,” “Let Us Adore Him” (Music), or sing familiar Christmas songs together. **Optional:** Play songs from a Christmas CD. Encourage each child to play the bells while singing the Christmas songs. Celebrate together that God planned for Jesus to be born.

**Adapt for Babies–1s:** Place bells inside plastic containers and seal shut. Let the children hold, shake, or roll the containers.

3. **Build baby beds.** Lead the boys and girls to use the blocks to build baby beds. Encourage the children to place the dolls in the baby beds. Suggest they use the blankets to cover up the dolls. Invite a child to open a Bible to Matthew 1 or Luke 1. Mention that angels told about God’s plan for a special baby to be born. Tell that Mary and Joseph obeyed God. Encourage the children to thank God for His plans.

**Adapt for Babies–2s:** Play with blocks.

4. **Play like a family.** Allow the children to play out being a family with the dolls and dollhouse. Point out the different roles being played—mother, father, son, daughter, and so on. Encourage the kids to tell the Bible story using the figures. Thank God for the families He gave us and for the family He gave Jesus. Say: “God chose a family just for Jesus. God planned for Jesus to be born.”

**Adapt for Babies–2s:** Play with toy people figures.

## CLEAN UP

Invite the preschoolers to clean up their activities. Give each child a specific task to do. Thank the boys and girls for their work.

## PLAY THE MESSAGE GAME

Direct the kids to sit on the floor in a circle. Show a small Bible. Ask them to close their eyes and to bow their heads. Display the small Bible somewhere in the room. Ask the kids to open their eyes and to lift their heads. Lead kids to search the room with their eyes until they find the Bible. When a child spots the Bible, encourage him to remain seated and point to it. Retrieve the Bible. Mention that we read about Jesus in the Bible. Play again as time allows.

## DISMISS

Help the kids gather their papers and belongings. Thank them for coming. Remind the parents to review the Bible story on the Kids Activity Page.