

## Sunday School Lesson: The Joyful News of Jesus Coming!

### Lesson Overview

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-56

**Theme:** The coming of Jesus brings great joy to the world!

**Key Verse:** "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:47)

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### Opening Activity (5-10 minutes)

#### "Good News Celebration"

Ask students to share the best news they've ever received (a new sibling, a special gift, going on a trip, etc.). How did they react? Did they jump? Shout? Tell everyone?

Say: "Today we're going to learn about the BEST news the world has ever received—and see how people responded with incredible JOY!"

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### Possible Or Impossible Game Setup:

#### Supplies Needed:

- 2 [Post-it Notes](#) (or two pieces of paper with tape)
- 1 marker

Take the two Post-it Notes and write an "I" on one of them (for impossible) and a "P" on the other (for possible). For younger kids, you may want to use green paper for Possible and red paper for impossible to help differentiate them simply. (Red light vs. green light.)

Choose a good space indoors where you can hang up the Post-it Notes opposite from one another. Place the "P" on one wall and the "I" on another, with enough room for the kids to move back and forth.

#### Possible Or Impossible Game Rules:

The object of the game is for kids to listen to statements and decide whether they are impossible or possible.

- Begin by having your kids stand in the middle of the room.
- Explain that possible means things that could actually happen. And explain that impossible means that this thing could not happen in real life. Maybe even add that it would just be silly.
- Say a statement that would lend itself to something that is impossible or possible. For example, a dog went swimming on the moon.
- They have to decide whether that statement is possible or impossible and run to the "I" or "P" Post-it Note.
- Then discuss their reasoning together and have them move back into the middle of the room.

#### Some More Possible or Impossible Example Statements:

- You can walk through the wall.
- Your friend ate breakfast today.
- There is a living dinosaur on the couch.
- The school bus is full of kids.
- The computer gave me a hug yesterday.
- The ant crawled into the ant hill.
- The balloon was bigger than the Statue of Liberty.
- The cat danced across the kitchen.
- A cow went swimming in the fountain.
- The cup of coffee was steaming hot.
- A family rode their bikes into town.
- The robot ate a carrot.
- A monkey swung from a tree.

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## **Bible Story Teaching (15-20 minutes)**

### **The Angel Visits Mary - A Story for Children**

#### **The Story in Simple Words**

Once upon a time, in a small town called Nazareth, there lived a young woman named Mary. She was engaged to marry a kind man named Joseph.

One day, God sent an angel named Gabriel to visit Mary. Can you imagine seeing an angel? Mary was very surprised and a little scared!

The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary! God is very pleased with you. You are going to have a baby boy, and you will name him Jesus. He will be God's own Son, and He will be a King whose kingdom will last forever!"

Mary was confused. "How can this happen?" she asked. "I'm not married yet!"

The angel explained, "God's Holy Spirit will make this miracle happen. Nothing is impossible for God!

Even your cousin Elizabeth, who is very old, is going to have a baby too!"

Mary thought about this big, surprising news. Then she said something very brave: "I am God's servant. I will do whatever God wants."

The angel smiled and left.

Mary was so excited that she hurried to visit her cousin Elizabeth in the hills. When Elizabeth saw Mary, her baby jumped inside her tummy with joy! Elizabeth said, "You are so blessed, Mary! You believed that God would do what He promised!"

Mary was so happy that she sang a beautiful song praising God: "My soul praises the Lord! God has done wonderful things for me. He is mighty and holy, and He keeps all His promises!"

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months, and the two cousins talked about the amazing things God was doing.

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(The Bible video available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92i\\_Abah3FY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92i_Abah3FY)

Or <https://youtu.be/-CA7nPE07Lg?si=iIXNVwyxvGCZ8sGi>

#### **Part 1: An Angel Brings Joyful News! (verses 26-38)**

**Tell the Story with Enthusiasm:** God had the most wonderful surprise for the whole world, and He chose Mary to hear it first! The angel Gabriel appeared with the most exciting announcement ever made.

##### **Key Points to Emphasize:**

- The angel's greeting: "Greetings, you who are highly favored!" (This is happy news!)
- The joyful promise: A baby is coming who will be the Savior!
- Mary's question shows she's processing this AMAZING news
- Mary's joyful acceptance: "May your word to me be fulfilled"

**Ask:** How do you think Mary felt after the angel left? Scared? Excited? Both?

#### **Part 2: Joy Overflows! (verses 39-45)**

**Tell the Story:** Mary was SO filled with joy and excitement that she couldn't keep it to herself! She hurried to tell Elizabeth.

##### **Highlight the Joy Moments:**

- Mary HURRIED—she couldn't wait to share!
- The baby John LEAPED for joy inside Elizabeth (even unborn babies celebrated Jesus!)
- Elizabeth was FILLED with the Holy Spirit
- Elizabeth spoke in a LOUD voice—she was so excited!
- Elizabeth called Mary "blessed"—happy and favored
- The baby leaped "for JOY" (verse 44)

**Discussion:** Count how many joyful reactions happen in these verses! Why do you think everyone was so happy?

### Part 3: Mary's Joyful Song! (verses 46-56)

**Teach:** Mary was so full of joy that she burst into song! When we're really happy, sometimes we sing, don't we?

#### Emphasize the Joy Words:

- "My soul GLORIFIES the Lord" (celebrates!)
- "My spirit REJOICES" (is full of joy!)
- "The Mighty One has done GREAT THINGS for me"
- Her song is full of praise and happiness about what God is doing

**Activity:** Have children identify all the happy, praising words in Mary's song.

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### Application Points - JOY FOCUSED

#### 1. Jesus' Coming Is the Best News Ever!

The angel announced that Jesus was coming to save us. This is something to celebrate! Christmas isn't just a nice holiday—it's the most joyful event in history.

#### 2. Joy Is Contagious!

Mary's joy spread to Elizabeth. Elizabeth's baby leaped with joy. When we're excited about Jesus, our joy spreads to others too!

#### 3. Even Before Jesus Was Born, He Brought Joy

Jesus wasn't even born yet, but already people were celebrating! Just knowing He was coming filled people with happiness. We can have that same joy today knowing Jesus is with us.

#### 4. We Can't Keep Good News to Ourselves

Mary hurried to share. Elizabeth shouted with a loud voice. When something makes us really happy, we want to tell everyone! Do we share our joy about Jesus with others?

#### 5. Joy in Hard Times

Mary's situation wasn't easy, but she still rejoiced. Real joy in Jesus isn't based on everything being perfect—it's based on knowing God is good and faithful.

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### Activities

#### For Younger Children:

- **Joy Jump:** Act out the baby John leaping for joy! Jump every time you hear the word "joy" or "rejoice"
- **Craft:** Make "Joy" bells or shakers to celebrate Jesus coming
- **Action Song:** Create hand motions for "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices!"
- **Drawing:** Draw pictures of Mary and Elizabeth celebrating together

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### Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the baby John leaped for joy when he heard Mary's voice?
2. What are some ways Mary showed her joy in this passage?
3. How is the joy of knowing Jesus different from other kinds of happiness?
4. When you think about Jesus coming to earth, what makes you most joyful?
5. How can we share our joy about Jesus with others?

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### Joyful Closing Activity

#### "Joy Explosion"

- Give each person a balloon or streamer
- As you read key verses, have everyone wave their items and shout "Joy!"
- End with everyone shouting together: "Jesus brings us JOY!"

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### Closing Prayer

*"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus! Just like Mary, Elizabeth, and even baby John, we are filled with JOY when we think about Jesus coming to save us. Help us to rejoice in You every day. Help us to share this joy with everyone we meet. Thank You that Your joy gives us strength and hope, no matter what we're facing. We celebrate You today! Amen."*

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### **Take-Home Challenge**

**Joy Countdown:** Each day this week, share one reason Jesus brings you joy with someone else. It could be a family member, friend, or even a stranger. Keep a "Joy List" of all the reasons you think of!

**Bonus:** Sing or hum a joyful song about Jesus every day!

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### **Memory Verse**

"My spirit rejoices in God my Savior!" - Luke 1:47

**Or for younger children:** "Be joyful always!" - 1 Thessalonians 5:16

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### **Extra Joy Elements to Add Throughout**

- **Play joyful music** as students arrive
  - **Decorate with bright, festive colors**
  - **Give "joy stickers" or stamps** when kids participate
  - **End with a celebration:** simple treats, a joy dance party, or releasing balloons outside (if appropriate)
  - **Create a "Joy Wall"** where everyone writes/draws what brings them joy about Jesus
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### **Closing Reminder**

"Remember: Jesus came to bring JOY to the world—and that includes YOU! Let's celebrate Him today and every day!"