Preschool–Grade 5

Angel Gabriel Visits Mary Craft

A story banner of four flags on yarn · Luke 1:26–38 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



Harder

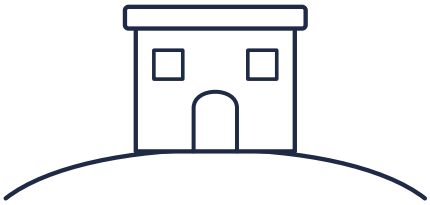
Both levels are a banner of four paper flags hanging in a row on a piece of yarn, telling the story in order. Flag 1 (light blue): a little house on a green hill, for the town of Nazareth (Luke 1:26). Flag 2 (yellow): a white oval window where a child has drawn Mary listening to God's message (1:28–29). Flag 3 (light blue): a yellow crown, because "of his kingdom there shall be no end" (1:33). Flag 4 (yellow): a red heart for Mary's answer, "be it unto me according to thy word" (1:38). Medium (left): the four flags. Harder (right): two brown shutters beside Mary's window that open and close.

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Name: _____

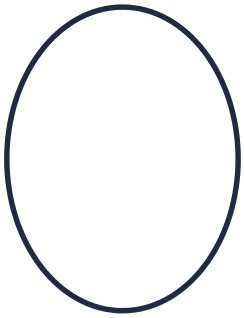
✂ Cut on the dashed lines

fold back over the yarn



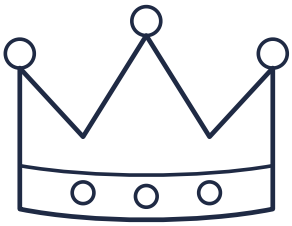
Flag 1, Nazareth: flag light blue, house brown, hill green

fold back over the yarn



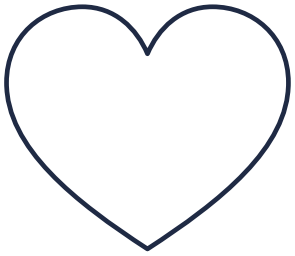
Flag 2, Mary: flag yellow. Leave the window white and draw Mary.

fold back over the yarn



Flag 3, the King: flag light blue, crown yellow

fold back over the yarn



Flag 4, Mary's yes: flag yellow, heart red

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Luke 1:31 (KJV)

verse card: glue it on the back of flag 2

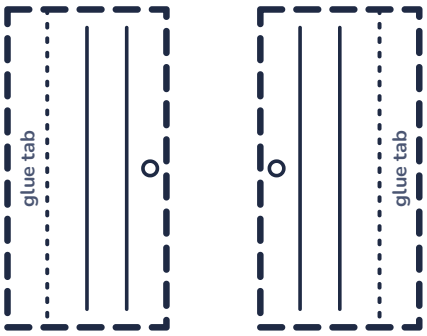
Color each flag the way its label says. Cut out the four flags and the verse card.

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

Window shutters (harder level)

Cut on the dashed lines. Fold on the dotted lines.



left shutter right shutter

color both shutters brown on both sides

How to add the window shutters

1. Make the banner from page 2 first.
2. Color both shutters brown on both sides. Cut them out on the dashed lines.
3. Fold each glue tab back on its dotted line.
4. Put glue on the back of the tabs only. Glue the left shutter's tab on flag 2 just left of the window, with the fold touching the edge of the window, so the shutter covers the left half of the window. Glue the right shutter's tab just right of the window the same way. The shutters stay loose, so they open and close.
5. Close the shutters and tell the story. When you reach "the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured" (Luke 1:28), open them: there is Mary, listening to God's message.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/gabriel-visits-mary-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers in light blue, yellow, brown, green and red, crayons for drawing Mary, scissors, glue sticks, and a piece of yarn about 24 inches long per child. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: cut the yarn. For preschoolers, also cut out the four flags and the verse card and fold back the tabs ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and fold the tabs. Kids color the flags and draw Mary in the window. Then they glue the flags onto the yarn in order with your help, while you tell that part of the story, and you help them glue the verse card on the back of flag 2.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw Mary, cut out the pieces and glue the flags onto the yarn themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the banner like the medium level. Then add the two window shutters from page 3 to the Mary flag, and use them to retell the story (Luke 1:28). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** flag 1 light blue with a brown house and a green hill. Flag 2 yellow, with the oval window left white. Flag 3 light blue with a yellow crown. Flag 4 yellow with a red heart.
2. **Draw:** in the window on flag 2, draw Mary listening to God's message, with long hair and a long dress.
3. **Cut:** cut out the four flags and the verse card on the dashed lines.
4. **Fold:** fold the top tab of each flag back on the dotted line.
5. **Glue:** lay the yarn straight across the table. Glue the flags on in order, 1 to 4 from left to right, about a finger-width apart: put glue on the tab, fold it over the yarn and press it onto the back of the flag. Tell the story as you go: God sent Gabriel to Nazareth (flag 1, Luke 1:26), to Mary (flag 2, 1:27), with news of a son named JESUS whose kingdom shall have no end (flag 3, 1:31–33), and Mary said yes to God (flag 4, 1:38).
6. **Verse:** glue the verse card on the back of flag 2 and read it together. Hang the banner up.

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to flag 1. Who did God send, and to what town? *(The angel Gabriel, to Nazareth, a city of Galilee, Luke 1:26)*
- Point to flag 2. Who was Mary espoused (promised in marriage) to? *(Joseph, of the house of David, 1:27)* How did Mary feel when the angel greeted her? *(She was troubled, 1:29)*
- What did the angel say so Mary would not be afraid? *("Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God," 1:30)*
- What name did God give the baby? *(JESUS, 1:31)*
- Point to the crown on flag 3. What did the angel say about His kingdom? *("of his kingdom there shall be no end," 1:33)*
- Who else was going to have a baby? *(Mary's cousin Elisabeth, 1:36)* What is impossible with God? *(Nothing, 1:37)*
- Point to the heart on flag 4. What did Mary say? *("Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word," 1:38)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: espoused** means promised in marriage; **Hail** means greetings; **highly favoured** means shown great kindness by God; **troubled** means upset and confused; **Fear not** means don't be afraid; **behold** means look; **thou shalt** means you will; **conceive in thy womb** means a baby will begin to grow inside you; **bring forth a son** means have a baby boy; **the Highest** is God; **reign** means rule as king; **handmaid** means a servant girl; **be it unto me according to thy word** means let it happen to me just as you said.
- **What the Bible says:** Luke 1 says God sent Gabriel "unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth" (1:26). It doesn't describe Mary's house, what Gabriel looked like or how old Mary was, so the house on flag 1 simply stands for the town, and the crown on flag 3 stands for "the throne of his father David… of his kingdom there shall be no end" (1:32–33). Tell the virgin birth simply and reverently: God did it by His own power (1:35).
- **No one is drawn on the template:** Gabriel, Mary and Jesus are not drawn. Each child draws Mary in the window on flag 2.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything, fold the tabs and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished banner so they can see the goal, and say the order together: "Nazareth, Mary, the King, Mary's yes."
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free angel Gabriel visits Mary lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/gabriel-visits-mary.

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