Preschool–Grade 6

The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Mary trusted God's word even when she didn't understand how it could happen. With God nothing shall be impossible, so we can trust Him too.
Bible passage: Luke 1:26–38. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS." *Luke 1:31 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), paper and a pencil for each child, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: Possible or Impossible? (5–10 minutes)

Read each sentence. If kids think a person could do it, they stand up. If no person could ever do it, they sit down. 1) Ride a bike across town. 2) Make the sun come up. 3) Build a tall tower out of blocks. 4) Make a brand-new star. 5) Learn a new language. 6) Give a baby to a woman who is very old and has never had children. Ask: *Which ones are impossible for people?* Say: "Today an angel tells Mary something that sounds impossible. Listen for what he says about God."

2. Bible story: Mary Trusts God's Word (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Luke 1. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

God sends Gabriel. Look up Luke 1:26. In the sixth month (the sixth month that Mary's cousin Elisabeth was expecting her baby, 1:36), God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. Gabriel came to a **virgin**, a young woman who was not married, named Mary. She was **espoused**, promised in marriage, to Joseph, who was from the house of David, King David's family (1:27).

Gabriel's greeting. Look up Luke 1:28. Hail means greetings. **Highly favoured** means God had shown her great kindness. Mary was troubled at what he said, and she **cast in her mind**, which means she wondered, what kind of **salutation** (greeting) this was (1:29).

Gabriel's message. Look up Luke 1:30. Gabriel told her not to be afraid: she had found favour with God. Mary would have a son and call His name JESUS (1:31). The angel told her five things about Him (1:32–33): He shall be great; He shall be called the Son of the Highest (God is the Highest); the Lord God would give Him the throne of His father David; He shall reign over the house of Jacob (God's people) for ever; and His kingdom would have no end.

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Mary's question. Mary asked, "How shall this be?" because she was not married (1:34). **Look up Luke 1:35.** The Holy Ghost would come upon her, and the power of the Highest would **overshadow** her, which means cover her like a shadow. God Himself would do it, so the holy child would be called the **Son of God**. Jesus had no earthly father. He is God Himself, come in a body like ours: "God was manifest in the flesh" (1 Timothy 3:16).

A sign from God. Gabriel told Mary that her cousin Elisabeth, who was old and had been called **barren** (not able to have children), was expecting a son too, and was already in her sixth month (1:36). **Look up Luke 1:37.** "For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Mary's answer. Look up Luke 1:38. A **handmaid** is a servant girl. "Be it unto me according to thy word" means "Let it happen to me just as you said." Mary did not know everything that would happen, but she trusted God's word. Then the angel departed (left).

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Mary was troubled and asked, "How shall this be?" (1:29, 1:34). Is it all right to ask God questions? What did Mary do after she heard the answer?
2. Gabriel's first words of comfort were "Fear not" (1:30). When do you feel afraid? What helps you remember God is with you?
3. Why do you think God told Mary about Elisabeth (1:36–37)?
4. Mary said, "be it unto me according to thy word" (1:38). What is one thing God's Word asks you to do that you can say yes to this week?
5. What is something that seems impossible to you, that you can pray about?

Recall questions

1. What was the angel's name? *(Gabriel, Luke 1:26)*
2. Joseph was from whose family? *(The house of David, 1:27)*
3. What would Mary's son be called? *(The Son of the Highest, 1:32, and the Son of God, 1:35)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **behold** means look, **thou shalt** means you will, **conceive in thy womb** means a baby will begin to grow inside you (the womb is where a baby grows inside a mother), and **bring forth a son** means have a baby boy. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God kept His word to Mary, and Jesus was born. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: when you read or hear what God's Word says, answer like Mary: "Be it unto me according to thy word."

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Luke 1:26: What city did God send Gabriel to? *(Nazareth, a city of Galilee)*
2. Luke 1:27: What was the name of the man Mary was espoused to? *(Joseph)*
3. Luke 1:28: What did the angel say first? *("Hail, thou that art highly favoured")*
4. Luke 1:30: What did the angel tell Mary not to do? *(Fear: "Fear not, Mary")*
5. Luke 1:33: How long would Jesus' kingdom last? *(There shall be no end)*
6. Luke 1:36: Which relative of Mary was going to have a baby too? *(Her cousin Elisabeth)*
7. Luke 1:37: What is impossible with God? *(Nothing)*
8. Matthew 1:21: Why is His name JESUS? *(For He shall save His people from their sins)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that nothing is impossible for You. Help us trust Your Word, even when we don't understand everything, and say yes to You like Mary did. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks how Mary could have a baby without a husband: answer simply. The angel said the Holy Ghost would come upon her and the power of the Highest would overshadow her (Luke 1:35). Jesus had no human father; God did it by His own power, which is why Jesus is called the Son of God. "With God nothing shall be impossible" (1:37).

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