Preschool–Grade 6

The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God told Mary, "Your baby's name is JESUS." Mary said yes to God.
Bible passage: Luke 1. Read Luke 1:26–38 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "and shalt call his name JESUS" *Luke 1:31 (KJV)*. The old word **shalt** means will: Mary will call Him Jesus.
You need: a Bible, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child. If you have one: a baby doll or a soft blanket.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 1:26.

1. Opening game: What's Your Name? (5 minutes)

Sit in a circle. Roll or pass a soft ball (or the baby doll) to a child and say, "What's your name?" The child says their name, and everyone says, "Hello, ___!" and waves. Keep going until everyone has had a turn. Say: "Everyone has a name. Today we will hear a true story about the very special name God chose for a baby."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 1. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

God sent an angel named Gabriel (Luke 1:26). *(Point up.)*
He went to a town called Nazareth (1:26). *(Make a roof over your head with your hands.)*
He came to a young woman named Mary (1:27). *(Wave hello.)*
The angel said, "The Lord is with thee" (1:28). *(Hug yourself.)*
Mary was troubled. She did not know what it meant (1:29). *(Scratch your head.)*
The angel said, "Fear not, Mary." That means don't be afraid (1:30). *(Put your hand on your heart.)*
The angel said Mary would have a baby boy (1:31). *(Rock a baby in your arms.)*
She would call His name JESUS! (1:31) *(Clap on "JESUS.")*
Say it with me: "His name is JESUS!"
He would be called the Son of God (1:35). *(Point up.)*
"With God nothing shall be impossible" (1:37). That means God can do anything! *(Make strong arms.)*
Mary said, "be it unto me according to thy word" (1:38). That means, "Yes, let it happen like you said." *(Nod your head yes.)*
Say it with me: "I can say yes to God!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who did God send to Mary? *(The angel Gabriel, Luke 1:26)*
2. What name did God choose for the baby? *(JESUS, 1:31)*
3. What did Mary say to God? *(Yes! "Be it unto me according to thy word," 1:38)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The angel told Mary she would call the baby Jesus. God's Word says, 'and shalt call his name JESUS.' Shalt means will." Teach the motion: rock a baby in your arms on "and shalt call his name," then throw your arms up high on "JESUS!" Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Luke 1:31" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a baby (1 Timothy 3:16). When He grew up, Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
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.

6. Activity: Mary's Window (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a window, then draw Mary inside it with long hair and a long dress. While they color, ask: "What was the baby's name? What did Mary say to God?" Then let each child turn to a friend and say, "His name is JESUS!"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for baby Jesus.
You can do anything.
Help me say yes to You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving. If they get wiggly, do the "baby" and "strong arms" motions again. If a child is scared of the angel, say, "The angel said 'Fear not!' He brought happy news from God."

If a child asks how Mary could have a baby: say simply, God did it. God can do anything (Luke 1:35, 1:37).

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