Preschool–Grade 6

The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: Trust God's word and say yes to Him, even when you can't see how it will work out, because with God nothing shall be impossible.
Bible passage: Luke 1:26–38. Students read it out loud themselves.
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)* and "For with God nothing shall be impossible." *Luke 1:37 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read Luke 1:26–38, Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:21–23. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses, or go around the room a few verses each.

1. Opening game: Questions or Doubts? (5–10 minutes)

Write two headings on the board: "Asking to understand" and "Refusing to believe." Read each sentence, and students point to the heading it fits. 1) "How do I do this? Show me the first step." 2) "That can't be true, so I won't do it." 3) "I don't see how this works, but I'll trust you." 4) "Prove it first, or forget it." Ask: *What is the difference between asking a question and refusing to trust?* Say: "Today Mary hears news that sounds impossible. She asks a question. Watch what she does with the answer."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Read out loud: Luke 1:26–33. Students take turns, a few verses each. Old words in this passage:

- **the sixth month** (1:26): the sixth month since Elisabeth began expecting her baby (see 1:36)
- **a virgin espoused** (1:27): a young unmarried woman promised in marriage; **the house of David**: King David's family
- **Hail, thou that art highly favoured** (1:28): greetings, you who have been shown great kindness by God
- **cast in her mind what manner of salutation** (1:29): wondered what kind of greeting this was
- **conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son** (1:31): a baby will begin to grow inside you, and you will have a son
- **the Son of the Highest** (1:32): the Son of God Most High; **the house of Jacob** (1:33): God's people Israel

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Read out loud: Luke 1:34–38. Old words in this passage:

- **seeing I know not a man** (1:34): since I am not married
- **overshadow** (1:35): cover like a shadow; God's own power would do this
- **that holy thing which shall be born of thee** (1:35): the holy child who would be born to her
- **barren** (1:36): not able to have children
- **handmaid** (1:38): a servant girl; **be it unto me according to thy word**: let it happen to me just as you said; **departed**: left

Tell the big picture in your own words: Hundreds of years before, God had promised through the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14, KJV). Matthew says this came true in Jesus, and that Immanuel means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). The angel who spoke to Joseph gave the reason for the name JESUS: "for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The child born to Mary is not a second God. He is the one God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16), which is why He is called the Son of God (Luke 1:35).

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. Mary was troubled (1:29) and asked, "How shall this be?" (1:34). The angel answered her. What does that tell you about bringing honest questions to God?
2. Gabriel didn't explain every detail. He pointed Mary to God's power (1:35) and to Elisabeth (1:36). How does seeing what God has already done help you trust Him with what you can't see yet?
3. "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (1:37). Is there something in your life or family that seems impossible right now? What would it look like to trust God with it?
4. Mary called herself "the handmaid of the Lord" (1:38), a servant. What does it mean to belong to God and not just to ourselves?
5. "Be it unto me according to thy word" (1:38). Where is God's Word asking you to say yes right now?
6. Gabriel said Jesus' kingdom would have no end (1:33). How does knowing Jesus will reign for ever change how you face hard things today?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in Luke 1:31: **behold** means look; **thou shalt** means you will; **conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son** means a baby will begin to grow inside you, and you will give birth to a son. Luke 1:37 is plain: there is nothing God cannot do.
Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Luke 1:31 this week; keep Luke 1:37 for when something feels impossible.

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5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "The angel told Mary to call Him JESUS, 'for he shall save his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21, KJV). God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
Pray with the students, 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: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. What is one honest question I want to bring to God, like Mary did?
2. What feels impossible to me right now? Write Luke 1:37 next to it.
3. Write a short prayer that begins, "Lord, be it unto me according to thy word..."
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: read Luke 1:26–38 again at home. Each time something feels too hard, say Luke 1:37 out loud.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that nothing is impossible for You. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us from our sins. Give us hearts like Mary's, that trust Your Word and say yes to You. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a student asks how Mary could have a child as a virgin: answer honestly and 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, just as Isaiah 7:14 had promised, and "with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). Keep the answer at that level; the Bible gives no more detail.

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