

Lesson C2.9 - A Happy Meeting



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in
Preschool, Kindergarten, and
Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Luke 1:39-56

► Bible Characters: Elizabeth, Mary

Elizabeth and Mary were cousins, and both women were expecting babies. When Mary came to visit Elizabeth, the child in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy! After Elizabeth blessed her, Mary responded with a beautiful song of praise which is known as, "The Magnificat." Mary stayed there for 3 months.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Advent and Christmas

The miracle of the Incarnation is the good news that God became a human being, to live among us (John 1:14). As Christians, we believe that Jesus is fully human and fully divine. Born among the animals, and placed a box of hay. Such a humble beginning for the King of kings, God's own Son!

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune, "A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea." Feel free to clap along!

**God welcomes you today, day, day,
To listen, learn and play, play, play,**

**So hear me when I say, say, say,
It's time to start! Let's pray, pray, pray:**

All lift hands and say: **Please bless us, Lord. Amen!**

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Christmas Day will be coming soon! Will you get to visit any friends or relatives around this time? Seeing special people is exciting. It's **a happy meeting!**

- Who do you look forward to seeing during the Christmas season? (*Choose a child to answer.*)
- What's the best part about visiting with them? (*Choose a child to answer.*)

Today we're going to learn about when Mary had **a happy meeting**, herself, not long before the first Christmas. Mary got to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who was having a baby too. It was **a happy meeting** for both of them. So happy, in fact, that one of their babies even jumped for joy!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: Not long after learning that she would have a baby, Mary decided to take a trip to the hill country. There, she could see a favorite relative.

Read the caption: One day, Mary went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. When Mary arrived, Elizabeth's unborn baby leaped for joy in her tummy!

- Which person in this picture is Elizabeth? [The woman in pink. Mary is in blue.]
- What is Elizabeth doing? [Holding out her arms to hug Mary.]
- Does Elizabeth look like she is the same age as Mary? [No, Elizabeth looks older than Mary; she has gray hair].



Picture 2

Tell the children: Elizabeth was an older woman, but through a miracle of God, she was going to have a baby, just like Mary!

Read the caption: Elizabeth blessed Mary and gave her a hug. She knew that Mary would have a baby soon too. He would be the Messiah!

- Who will Mary's baby be? [Jesus, the Messiah, the Savior of the world]. Can anyone tell me who Elizabeth's baby will be? [John the Baptist]
- Why do you think Elizabeth blessed Mary? [This was a special way of greeting her. Also, Elizabeth knew Mary had been chosen by God for a great purpose.]



Picture 3

Tell the children: Mary replied to Elizabeth with beautiful words of faith. Called, "The Magnificat," or "The Song of Mary," all of it can be found in the Bible.

Read the caption: Mary said, "My soul praises the Lord! He has chosen me to give birth to his child, even though I am not rich or famous..."

- Why do you think Mary mentioned that she was not rich or famous? [She was amazed that God chose an ordinary person like her to be the mother of his Son.]
- Did Mary think she was better than other people since she had been chosen? [Not at all. Mary was very humble. She felt blessed and just wanted to serve God.]



Picture 4

Tell the children: Mary and Elizabeth must have had a lot to talk about during their visit. Maybe they even made baby clothes or swaddling cloths together?

Read the caption: Mary stayed with Elizabeth for 3 months. Then she went home. Both women gave birth to babies who would serve God.

- Look at the two babies in the picture. What are their names? [Elizabeth's son is John, and Mary's son is Jesus]
- Do you think the babies will grow up to be friends? [They will definitely meet again. John will even baptize Jesus out in the wilderness, many years later.]

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*Mary walked along the way
to the hills one sunny day.
She was greeted with a prayer
when her cousin saw her there.*

*And her cousin's unborn boy,
in the womb, leaped up with joy!
Mary said, "I praise the Lord;
he's the one to be adored.*

*"For he's blessed me with his son,
Jesus Christ, the Chosen One.
"God has done amazing deeds.
He will meet our every need!"*

g. Young Children's Craft (optional)

Simple in-class craft activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class.

Housewarming Gifts**Materials:**

- Wrapped Christmas candies of various sorts. (Be sure to choose ones that won't be a choking hazard. Chocolates can work well)
- Small packages of snacks
- Small cellophane bags
- Curling ribbon
- Scissors
- Gift tags
- Markers



Instructions: It is traditional in many cultures to bring a small "housewarming gift" when you visit someone for an extended time. Mary might have brought one to Elizabeth, and today, kids will make a little housewarming gift they can give to a special friend or relative when they visit their home too.

Set out a variety of wrapped Christmas candies and packaged snacks on a table, along with cellophane bags, pieces of curling ribbon, and gift tags. Invite kids to fill their bags with one packaged snack and a certain amount of candy. Twist the top and tie with curling ribbon. Write, "From (their name)" on a gift tag and attach it. Kids will enjoy having their own gift to give!

h. Song (optional)

This Advent song is sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." There are various versions found online.

Advent Song

**Advent is the time to wait,
not quite time to celebrate.
Count the candles, soon you'll see,
'just four weeks til Christmas Eve.
Christmas day will soon be here,
time for joy and time to cheer.**

**Advent is the time to wait,
not quite time to celebrate.**

**Light the candles one by one,
until Advent time is done.**

**Christmas day will soon be here
time for joy and time to cheer.**

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: Mary had just found out she was going to have a baby. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Dear God, we thank you for this day,

And as we go along our way,

We ask your blessing, and your care,

On friends and family everywhere.

Please bless our church, and teachers too,

And help us always follow you. Amen.

LESSON PLAN

For Lower Elementary Students & Classes

Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class to greet students and parents by name. Have the day's Bible Message written on the white board or on poster board that all the kids can see. Consider using a repeatable special greeting ("This is the day the Lord has made!") or handshake for your students.



Opening Prayer Song

Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Take a minute and have students greet each other by name. It helps build community after not seeing each other for a week. The opening prayer song should be sung every week with these young kids — repetition is good.

This is sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Accompaniment music isn't needed.

*Heavenly Father, we love you,
thanks for everything you do.*

*Open our hearts and open our ears,
so we can learn from what we hear.*

*Thanks for hearing us when we pray,
and for loving us every day. Amen.*

Introduction to Today's Message

Teacher's Script (student responses are in bold).

Today's Bible message is that God will have a Son and Mary will be his mother. Mary's having a baby. Say that with me: **Mary's having a baby!** If God says it's going to happen, we believe it. Say it again, **Mary's having a baby!**

- Raise your hand if you can tell me who makes babies. (God does. Choose a child to answer.) ALL babies are made from a dad and a mom. Who are Jesus' mom and dad?
- Raise your hand if you think Mary was worried and scared when God's messenger told her she was going to have a baby from God.

Today's story is about when the angel came to tell Mary she was going to have a very special baby. What's today's message? **Mary's having a baby!**

Read the Story while Showing the Pictures

Each Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture to be printed on letter-sized paper (or enlarged to ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available). The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading.

The News of the Angel

Based on Luke 1:26-38

The word *angel* means messengers. They came to earth to bring messages from God to people. [What does the word *angel* mean?] For this to happen, God chose a young lady, Mary, to be his Son's mom.

Picture 1

One day, an angel came down from heaven to give Mary a message. He said, "Hello, Mary. God has chosen you." [What was the angel's message?] Mary was very surprised and afraid. She didn't know what to say. [Why do you think she was afraid?]

Picture 2

The angel's name was Gabriel. When he saw that Mary was afraid he said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God chose you to have a special child. It will be God's Son and you will name him Jesus. [Who will the baby be? What will his name be?]

Picture 3

Mary was confused. How could she have a baby if she wasn't married to Joseph yet? How could she have God's Son? How would all this happen? [What were Mary's questions?] Gabriel told her this would be the baby they were all waiting for.

Picture 4

Gabriel then told her that God would send his Spirit to come to her and put the baby in her. That way the baby would be God's son. [How would the baby be God's Son?] Mary knew God could do anything and she trusted him, so she said, "I will be happy to do what God wants me to do." [Why will Mary be happy to do what God wants her to do?]

Bible Message

Do you remember today's Bible Message? **Mary's having a baby!**