



CHRISTMAS PRESENCE



Check It Out!

Many of us don't like moving outside our "comfort zone". That is why it is called our comfort zone, because it is where we are comfortable. In the Bible story today, we will learn about a girl who was pulled out of her normal life by a supernatural experience. Mary was a young girl with a huge destiny! God sent an angel to tell her she would conceive the Messiah of her people, even though she was a virgin! She exhibited a wonderfully servant-minded attitude. Even though it was likely that she might be hurt or shunned by her family, she still humbly accepted the gift the angel told her she would receive. We as Christians should make it our goal to be looking for places and times to serve. Whether it is at our church, school, job, or even while we are shopping at the grocery store. We should all have a servant's attitude at all times.

BE A SERVANT

MAIN FOCUS

SERVING THE LORD

MAIN POINT

WE SHOULD BE READY
TO SERVE GOD
AT ALL TIMES
IN ANY PLACE

MAIN WORD

And the people said to Joshua,
"We will serve the LORD our
God and obey him."
Joshua 24:24



LESSON 1

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ORDER OF SERVICE

COUNTDOWN VIDEO

INTRO VIDEO

Tony the Angel

PHRAZE CRAZE

WE SHOULD BE READY TO
SERVE GOD AT ALL TIMES
IN ANY PLACE

WORD DROP

Joshua 24:24

TRUE OR *NOT* TRUE VIDEO

Tony the Angel

SERMON

"Be A Servant"

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Review Game

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LESSON 1

CHRISTMAS PRESENCE

Illustrated Sermon

"Be A Servant"

Supplies needed: Measuring Stick, Big Rock, 2 File Folders (with the word *GOD's PLAN* written on one, and the words *MY PLAN* written on the other), exercise weights.

Preparation: Read Luke 2:1-21

In the Bible story we learned about a girl named Mary who was chosen by God to do a remarkable thing! In our story an Angel of the Lord came to her and told her that she would give birth to a son, and not just any son, the King of Kings-the long awaited Messiah, Jesus. So, naturally Mary was terrified. In the Bible, angels came for a few reasons. Either to kill you, send you a message, or to comfort you. Mary couldn't be sure why the Angel was there when she first saw him, and must have been scared that he was there to kill her! That would be downright petrifying. But Mary did the right thing, when she understood that the angel was there not to harm her, but to give her a message, she was filled with joy at being chosen by the Lord.

The Bible tells us that we must be the lowest of low in order for God to lift us up. (bring out measuring stick, and ask for the shortest person in the room to come up.) So that means that our volunteer here is going to be lifted up by God right? (Allow for response.) She will be lifted up because he/she is the lowest person in the room? He/she is the shortest! That makes them the lowest, right? (Allow for more response.) You are exactly right! Being the "lowest" has absolutely nothing to do with being short or tall. It means you put others before yourself. You make it your mission to help others succeed, and grow as followers of Christ. It means that we lift others up in all we do.

We are supposed to lift others up with our words; we are to put other people above ourselves, think of others before we think of ourselves. This is a great way to be a servant in your daily life.

1. DON'T BE AFRAID

(As a leader, possibly talk about the day/week/month you knew you were chosen to lead children, and explain how you felt and what you had to overcome.) We as Christians need to be like Mary! Even when we are scared, even when we don't know what is going to happen, we still need to respond to God's call like Mary did. Even though she knew she might be stoned (pull out big rock) by her neighbors. Mary wasn't afraid because she trusted God! She was open and willing to be the Lord's servant. We should as well.

Continued...



LESSON 1

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Illustrated Sermon
Continued...

2. TRUST GOD

The Second person we learned about today is Joseph, Mary's Fiancé. Now after Mary was told she would give birth to Jesus, She went to her Cousin Elizabeth's house for a few months. After that time she came back home and it was extremely evident that she was pregnant.

So once again an Angel of the Lord came, but this time he spoke to Joseph. The Angel told him that the Lord wanted Joseph to be with Mary anyways, because the baby inside of her would be Emmanuel which means "God with us." Now I don't know about any of you, but it would be really difficult for me to trust a dream, even if there was a glowing messenger in it.

(pull out MY PLAN file folder) Joseph had plans of his own! He was planning on breaking up with her quietly so she wouldn't be hurt. But God had other plans. (pull out GOD'S PLAN file folder) God wanted Joseph to stay with Mary to keep her safe. And we will see that later on in the story Joseph was instrumental in keeping both Mary and their newborn baby Jesus safe! God's plan is much better than our own.

Call up your child volunteer at this time, play the "trust fall" game with him. Show them that it isn't easy to trust someone when you can't see what they are doing. Have fun with it.

It's really hard to trust someone when you can't see what they are doing right? When you were looking away from me you couldn't see what I was doing at all right? I could have been picking my nose or looking the other way when you fell, and you never would have known until you hit the ground. That is exactly what this exercise is for. I'm pretty sure it will be easier for you (the volunteer) to trust me next time because I didn't let you fall this time right? In your life you will encounter times where you have to trust God even if you can't see him working.

(Bring out exercise equipment) The Bible says God is "working out all things for the good of those who love him." Does that mean if I work out every day things will go good in my life? (Allow for response.) Are you sure? I think it means if I lift these weights every day God will do good things for me. Or wait, does it mean that God works out every day? Anyway, One thing I do know, God will always make things happen for our good if we promise to love Him. Especially if it is something he has asked you to do, like with Joseph in our story. He was told to stay with Mary even though by all reasons she had been unfaithful to him.



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3. WE WILL BE BLESSED

God promises us in Jeremiah 29:11-13 that He has great plans for us and if we will seek him with our whole hearts and call upon Him, He will be with us. God calls us to be servants in everything we do and to trust him at all times. If we do these things he will pour out His blessing on our lives. In the passage we have been studying today Mary says, "For He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed." And what she said has come true. Every generation has seen Mary as a blessed woman for the gift she was chosen to bare the Son of God.

Not only will we be blessed in this life if we serve and trust in God, but we will be immeasurably blessed in Heaven as we tread the streets of gold and bask in the glory of Jesus for eternity. God wants to pour out his blessing on our school, family, and daily life. If only we will serve him and trust him with our whole hearts.

Prayer Time

Pray for any boy/girl that feels like they don't trust God enough, or would like to serve Him better. Pray as the Spirit would lead you to impact the children towards being a servant of Christ.



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Review Questions

1. What was the name of the girl in today's story?
Answer: Mary
2. Who came to Mary and told her that she would give birth to a son?
Answer: An angel of the Lord (Gabriel)
3. What was the first thing we learned about being a servant?
Answer: Don't be afraid
4. The second thing we learned about being a servant is that we should _____ in God.
Answer: Trust
5. The third thing we learned about being a servant is that we will be _____ if we serve God.
Answer: Blessed
6. How did the angel tell Joseph to not break up with Mary?
Answer: In a dream
7. The Bible tells us that we need to be _____ in order for God to lift us up.
Answer: low
8. Who did the angel say Mary would give birth to?
Answer: Jesus
9. We should be ready to _____ God at all times in any place.
Answer: Serve
10. What was the name of Mary's cousin?
Answer: Elizabeth

