

Angel visits Mary

Passage: Luke 1.26-38

Theme: Christians believe that Jesus is God's rescuing King.

Resources : Memory stick with song words and music; CD with music on; Laptop (check cable); Projector (check 2 cables); Extension lead; Schools team t-shirts (3 spare); Spare scripts.
Mary costume; Angel costume; Tinsel halo; 3 bears

Part 1: Introduction, Gabriel, Questions

Part 2: Mary, Prayer & Close

Part 3: Talk

Introduction:

Hello everyone, we are so pleased to be back with you again! We are the Christ Church Schools Team. I am _____, and this is _____ (introduce rest of the team).

This time of year is called Advent. [On PPT]

Advent means 'coming' [On PPT].

We are waiting for something that is coming. What are you waiting for at this time of year? [Ask] [Put What are you waiting for? PPT up]

In our story from the Bible, we hear about a woman who ended up waiting for someone very special to come... It was a long, long time ago in a town called Nazareth. Mary was engaged to a man called Joseph when she had a visitor - a messenger sent from God - an angel called Gabriel...

Story:

[Mary centre stage seated]

[Enter Gabriel]

Gabriel: Greetings. [Mary looks afraid] God has blessed you and is with you.

Mary: [Looking amazed] What do you mean?!

Gabriel: Don't be afraid, Mary. God is pleased with you. You are going to give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of God. He will be a great king like his Great, Great, Great... Grandad King David. But unlike King David, your son will be a king forever.

Mary: How will this be?

Gabriel: God's Spirit will be on you.

[Exit Gabriel. Mary looks amazed and freezes. Exits]

Talk:

[Hold up little bear] Do you ever feel a bit like this little bear? That you're very small in the world, and there are some big problems? [Team member holds up medium bear] [Point to medium bear] These problems might seem really big, like someone you love getting sick, or people being mean to you, or Coronavirus... What do we do when problems seem really big - too big for us to handle?

In the story we have just heard from the Bible, a young woman called Mary was visited by a messenger from God - the angel Gabriel. He announced the coming of a special baby boy who would be a bit like a lifeboat.

[Lifeboat on PPT]

What does a lifeboat do? [Ask] A lifeboat rescues people... And the name Jesus means 'God rescues'. Gabriel said that the baby boy would be a rescuer. Christians believe that Jesus is God's rescuer - rescuing people from the things they do wrong.

[Crown on PPT]

But Jesus would also wear a crown. Who normally wears a crown? [Ask] Angel Gabriel announced Jesus would be a great king. He would be powerful, but he would also be good and kind. Unlike other kings, he would be King forever... Christians believe that Jesus is God's rescuing King.

[Hold up little bear] When we feel very small, like this little bear, and there are some big problems. [Team member holds up medium bear] When problems seem too big for us to handle, Christians believe that Jesus is God's rescuing King [Team member holds up

Big Bear] who is bigger than all the problems that scare us and can help us through them.

Jesus is Really Big Bear!

At Advent, Christians look forward to Christmas, we're looking forward to the time when we remember the coming of Jesus. Jesus the rescuer who would rescue people from the things we have done wrong. Jesus the king who would be a good king, who would rule as king forever. Christians believe that Jesus is God's rescuing King. Or you can just call him Really Big Bear.

Song: Now that Christmas is here.

Questions:

I'm going to ask you some questions, so you can show me how well you've been listening.

1. What does Advent mean? [Coming]
2. What did God's messenger Gabriel say that Mary should call her baby boy?
[Jesus, which means God saves]
3. What do Christians believe we can learn from this story? [Christians believe that Jesus is God's rescuing king]

Prayer:

To finish our assembly I am going to say a short prayer for us all. So, if you can please close your eyes so you aren't distracted and if you agree with what I say, you can join in with **AMEN** at the end.

Dear God, thank you so much for _____ (*insert school name*) school. Thank you that we have learnt from this story that Christians believe that Jesus is your rescuing King. Please help us in our problems today. I pray that you would bless every child and every member of staff in this school. **Amen.**

Close:

Thank you so much for inviting us in, it has been so great to be with you today. Have a great Christmas and we'll see you in the New Year.

