

Jesus, part 2

Birth Foretold

Checklist:

- Have a copy of "Angel's Announcements" sheet and pencil for each person.

Opening

Ask: Who remembers what we talked about last time?
(*We just began a series about Jesus*)

Say: Now, let's see some things we can learn when Jesus' birth was foretold to Mary and Joseph...

Angel's Announcements - Small Groups

Small Group Time

Give each person an "Angel's Announcements" sheet. Divide the class into small groups of 2-4 people each and assign each group one of the two passages on the sheet (more than one group can work on the same passage). Give the groups 5-10 minutes to work on their passage. Then...

Have groups discuss what they came up with (and write key ideas they share on the whiteboard)...

- **If there are only two groups:** Simply have each group take turns reading their passage for the class, sharing what they came up with for the questions, and discussing it a bit along the way.
- **If there are more than two groups:** Begin by having one group that worked on the first passage read it and give some of their answer to question 1. Then allow any other groups to share other insights for that question. Next, have another group that worked on the first passage give their answer to question 2 and allow other groups to add. Continue with that pattern for question 3. Then follow that same pattern for groups that worked on the second passage.

Followup Discussion

Ask: Jesus' being both God and man is a key truth Christians believe. What are important things we see in these passages that talk about Jesus being both God and man?

Say: The virgin birth is another important part of our faith as Christians. These passages clearly show that He was supernatural born of a virgin.

Mary's Song / Rhyme Activity

Say:

- After the angel visited Mary, Luke chapter 1 says Mary went to visit her relative Elizabeth, who was miraculously pregnant with a son as well - John the Baptist. When they saw each other, Elizabeth's baby leaped for joy in her womb and Elizabeth told Mary, in verse 45 "blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."
- Then it continues with Mary's song - which is often referred to as the "Magnificat"...

Mary's Rhyme activity:

Write "Luke 1:46-55" on the whiteboard. Have students get back into their small groups. Tell them to turn Mary's Song, Luke 1:46-55, into Mary's Rhyme. Tell them to read over the passage together to make sure they understand it well and then make up a fun or clever rhyme that expresses it in their own words - not line for line, but the main gist of it. For instance, they could do a four line poem to summarize it. They can write in on the back of one of their small group sheets.

Give them five to ten minutes to work as a group, and offer help to the groups as needed. After, have each group present their rhyme to the whole class.

Ask:

- What did Mary say about God in this song?
Add key ideas to the whiteboard.
- How do the things the song talks about relate to Jesus' coming?
(Jesus fulfills what she says in 54-55 about "He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.")

Closing

Say:

- Think about something important you see about God the Father or Jesus from the passages we looked at today.
- And think about a way God may want you to follow Joseph or Mary's example of being obedient or acting as a servant, with God's help.

Give a minute for teens to think and pray silently to God about the above things.

Closing Prayer

