

THE ADVENT-URE OF MARY AND JOSEPH

BIG IDEA

Mary and Joseph had no idea that God would lead them on such big adventure! It must have been scary and exciting and wonderful all at the same time.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Purchase or make a nativity set. Put the Mary and Joseph figures into the box (You may have one at home already, or you can find them at \$2 type stores.) Alternatively, download a paper set off our our website under “Other Resources” Printable Nativity Set

Cut out the 8 appendix cards

Find eight nails, a hammer and a piece of wood large enough to hold all the cards when you nail them up to make the sentence

Get a teaspoon, straw, fork and large spoon for each child, plus a jug of water (or a favourite drink)

Get paper and crayons or felt tip pens

Put everything into the Faith Box before you start



INTRO

TAKE THE MARY AND JOSEPH FIGURES OUT OF THE FAITH BOX.

Ask the children to identify these people and to tell what they know about them.

GAME

TAKE OUT THE EIGHT CARDS WITH WORDS WRITTEN ON THEM, PLUS THE HAMMER.

Hold up the hammer and ask the children what it might have to do with Mary and Joseph... (Yes, Joseph was a carpenter.)

Let the children work out the order of the cards to make a sentence and then take turns hammering the cards into the wood in the correct order.



READ

Everything was ready. The moment God had been waiting for was here at last! God was coming to help his people, just as he promised in the beginning. How would he come? What would he be like? What would he do?...

There was a young girl who was engaged to a man named Joseph. (Joseph was the great-great-great-great-great grandson of King David.)

One morning, this girl was minding her own business when, suddenly, a great warrior of light appeared – right there, in her bedroom. He was Gabriel and he was an angel, a special messenger from heaven.

When she saw the tall shining man standing there, Mary was frightened.

“You don’t need to be scared,” Gabriel said. “God is very happy with you!”

Mary looked around to see if perhaps he was talking to someone else.

“Mary,” Gabriel said, and he laughed with

such gladness that Mary’s eyes filled with sudden tears.

“Mary you’re going to have a baby. A little boy. You will call him Jesus. He is God’s own Son. He’s the One! He’s the Rescuer!

The God who flung planets into space and kept them whirling around and around... the one who could do anything at all – was making himself small. And coming down... as a baby. Wait. God was sending a baby to rescue the world?

“But it’s too wonderful!” Mary said and felt her heart beating hard. “How can it be true?” “Is anything too wonderful for God?” Gabriel asked.

So Mary trusted God more than what her eyes could see. And she believed, “I am God’s servant, she said, “Whatever God says, I will do.”))

Luke 2: 26-38 and Matthew 1:18-25, The Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones, Pages 178–181, Zonderkids

EXPLORE

An angel came to both Mary and Joseph. Imagine an angel appearing in your bedroom! Mary was scared, but the angel told her that God loved her and had chosen her for a special privileged mission. Imagine having a really vivid dream of an angel talking to you and telling you what to do, like Joseph did. What do you think an angel looks like?

HAND OUT PAPER AND CRAYONS OR FELT TIPS and get everyone to try drawing an angel.

Mary and Joseph were ordinary people like you and me, but because they said 'yes' to God and were obedient to him they became part of the most amazing story in history! When we are obedient to God, we also become part of this amazing story.

QUESTIONS

Why do you think it would have been hard for Mary and Joseph to obey God?

For Mary – having a baby when she wasn't expecting it and wasn't yet married.

For Joseph – worrying about what people would think if he married Mary who was already pregnant. (How much detail you go into here will depend on the age of your children.)

What helped them to trust God and be obedient to him?

When the angel told Mary that God loved her and was going to give her a child – was Mary excited, worried, sad, humbled or glad?

GAME

OBEDIENCE DRINKING

Pour everyone a cup of a favourite drink. Hand each child a straw, a teaspoon, a big spoon and a fork.

TELL EVERYONE THEY ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO DRINK FROM THEIR CUP IN THE WAY YOU INSTRUCT.

Start with trying to have a drink using the teaspoon... then using the big spoon... then the fork... then the straw... then let them sip the drink.

QUESTIONS

What was the hardest way to drink? What was the easiest?

Is it sometimes hard for you to obey God? When is it hardest?

When we are obedient, God gives us a special sense of peace. Mary and Joseph were obedient to God, even when it was really hard.

Can you share a time when you have been obedient to God even when it was really hard? (Mum and Dad might like to share first.)

God promises that when we show our love for Him by being obedient, he makes his home with us. (John 14:23)

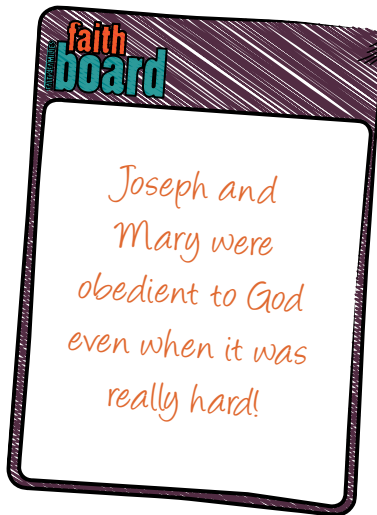
PRAY

Can you remember what last week's candle was? Yes, Hope! *Light the Hope candle. Then light the second candle on your Advent Wreath. (It will be another purple one if you have opted for the liturgical colours.) It is the candle of Peace. Look at a world map and point out countries where there is war happening. Pray for peace in these countries.*

LIVE

Make a special family trip this week to buy a Christmas gift for someone in need and drop it to the collection point at a local fire station, Salvation Army or major store.

FAITH BOARD



Let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush.

OTHER IDEAS

- 1** Take time over a meal to talk about different people in the Bible who obeyed God (e.g. Abraham, Daniel) or didn't obey God (e.g. Jonah, Adam and Eve)
- 2** Plan to invite some families over for Christmas drinks and organise a Christmas pageant for the children to act out. This is likely to become an eagerly anticipated tradition for your friends and their children. Have a box of appropriate costumes (keep it simple with sheets, tea towels etc) and read the story from a children's book like *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or the *Simple Script for Christmas Play* - (both on our website www.faithbox.co.nz under Other Resources.) You can have a little practice one night after school if you want to make it really special.
- 3** Continue to use the world map to find countries where there is war. Pray for peace in these countries.

BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- Star Christmas biscuits (or make them)

SESSION TWO

CARDS

GOD	WANTS	TO	BUILD
OBEDIENCE	IN	OUR	LIVES