

WEEK THREE

MARY IS TRUSTED WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB EVER

BIG IDEA

WE ALL HAVE IMPORTANT JOBS to do for God

PREP: (Kids can help!)

- On credit card size pieces of card write the following occupations: doctor, road worker, teacher, parent, builder, rubbish collector, scientist. (Add others that are relevant to your family if you wish).

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- Occupation cards
- Paper and pens
- Scissors for each child
- Appendix puzzle page (with answer key removed)



OUT OF THE BOX

- Take out the 'occupation cards' (doctor, roadworker, teacher, parent, builder, rubbish collector, scientist, etc.) and work together to put them in order of importance..

Was it easy or difficult?

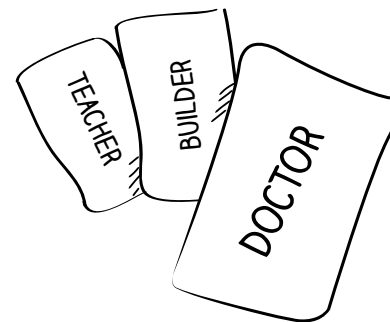
Well, the reason it isn't easy is that all the jobs are important; each for different reasons. We can't really say that one is more important than another.

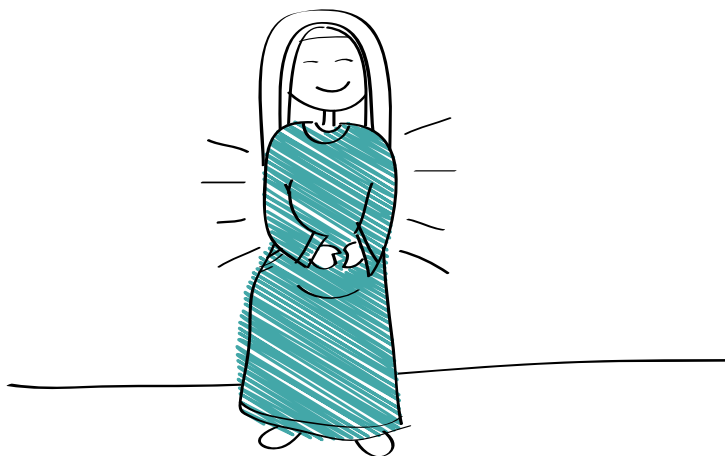
And that is how it is when God gives us a job to do too. It is always important.

PLAY

Statues

- Turn the cards upside down on the table or floor.
- The person with the shortest hair picks a card without showing anyone and poses as a statue of that job.
- Whoever is first to guess, then has the next turn. Keep going until all the cards have been used.





READ

Give the children the puzzle page from the Appendix and scissors to each child. Make sure to remove the answer key! While listening to the reading, have them cut along the lines, and also cut out the smaller square with the writing in it.

Today's story is about a girl to whom God gave a special job.

Do you remember Elizabeth who we talked about last week? Let's keep reading to hear what happens next...

“ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the village of Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to be married to a man from David's family. His name was Joseph and the virgin's name was Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:

“Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty. Beautiful inside and out!”

She was very afraid, but the angel assured her, “Mary, you have nothing to fear.

God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus. He will be great, be called 'Son of the Highest.'

The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.”

Mary said to the angel, “But how?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come

upon you; therefore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God. And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth is six months pregnant? Nothing, you see, is impossible with God.”

And Mary said... “Let it be with me just as you say.” Then the angel left her.

Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and travelled to a town in Judah in the hill country, straight to Zechariah's house, and greeted Elizabeth.

[note: Remember how Elizabeth's baby leapt with joy in her womb when Mary arrived!]

Then Mary sang, “I'm bursting with God-news; I'm dancing the song of my Saviour God. His mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before him.”

Luke 1: 26-56

My First Message – © Eugene Peterson, NavPress, 2007

WEEK THREE

EXPLORE

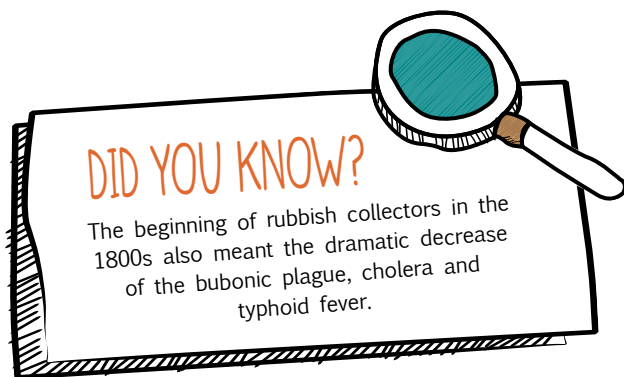
- Look at your puzzle pieces. Mary showed her willingness to receive God’s surprise by saying, “Let it be with me just as you say.” Now you try. Can you rearrange your pieces into a square again, including the “surprise” piece? Give it your best shot while you listen...

Even though she was just a young girl, Mary became a huge part of God’s fulfilment of her people’s hope. For hundreds of years her people had looked for their Rescuer whom God would send to save them. Now Mary was going to be this Chosen One’s mother!

Because Mary said, “Let it be with me just as you say,” she became a really important piece of God’s great plan.

That’s a prayer that we can all remember when we think God is asking us to do something.

- **Did anyone manage to make the new square yet?**



OUT OF THE BOX

Take out a pen and piece of paper for each person. Get everyone to draw a large cloud on their paper.

- **What jobs can you think of that God has asked you to do?**

Write your jobs inside the cloud as you think of them. (e.g. helping a new child at school, a special responsibility at church or home, a kind or loving act.)

At first Mary was scared and worried about her special job, but then she realised it was a wonderful thing. It made her so happy that she sang a song of praise about it.

- **Go back to the Bible reading and find the song – what was she happy about?**
- **What makes you feel so happy you want to sing?**

GAME

- Start with the youngest child, and ask them to name an occupation.
- Then the next youngest thinks of an occupation that starts with the last letter of the first occupation. See how long you can keep going.

Share together examples of when you have seen or known about someone who did a special job for God. (It might be a long-term occupation like becoming a missionary or a short-term task like telling someone about Jesus.)

- **How do you think it made them feel?**

“ IF THE LORD CALLS YOU, HE WILL EQUIP YOU FOR THE TASK HE WANTS YOU TO FULFIL. ”

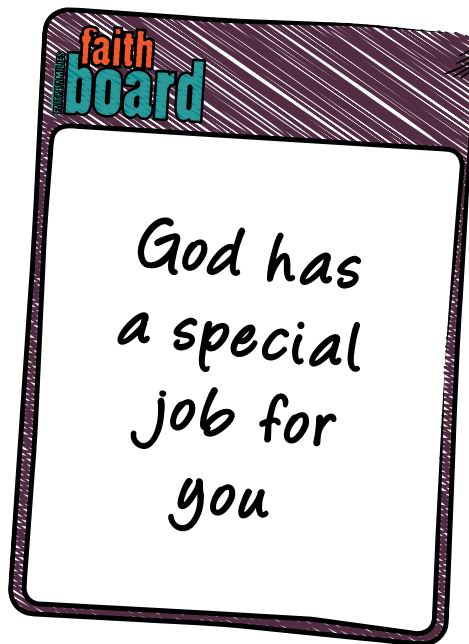
- WARREN WIERSBE -

PRAY

- Everyone hold the small square with writing in it as you pray.
- Dear God, thank you that Mary accepted the job you gave her and was full of joy. When you call us to do a special job, help us to reply "Let it be with me just as you say."

LIVE

- Make a list of important jobs for each person to do this week to help the family get ready for Christmas.



OTHER IDEAS

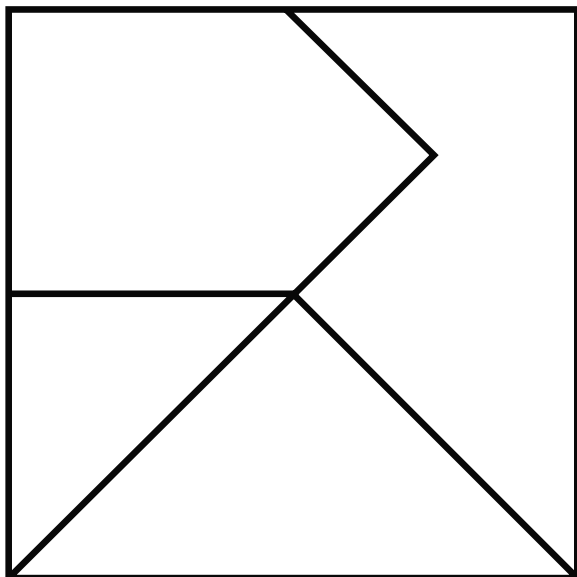
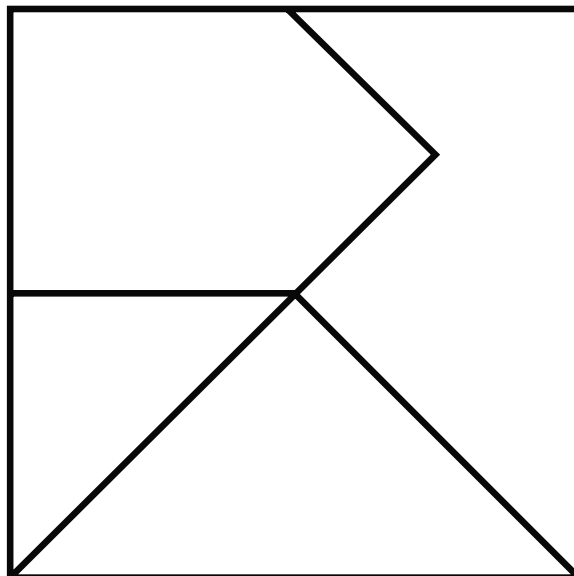
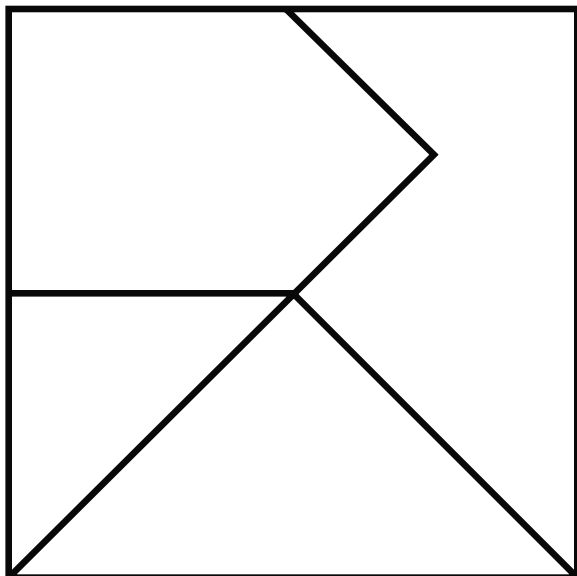
- Try to celebrate a different job each day this week by learning about it, having a go at it, or saying 'thank you' to someone who does it.
- From your nativity set, find Mary and set her at the front as you remember her story.
- Sing some Christmas carols, either at home as a family, or out carolling in the community.

CHECK OUT WHAT YOU
NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...





WEEK THREE



"LET IT BE
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ANSWER KEY

