

Mary and Elizabeth- Luke 1:39-48, 56-58

THE POINT

Focus:

Jesus is the Savior, sent by God!
God prepared the way for Jesus to be born.

Application:

We trust in Jesus as God's Son.

HEART CONNECTION (4-6 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- Christmas decorations like lights, garlands, an advent wreath, ornaments, or a manger scene

Content:

Decorate the worship space for Advent, even just hanging a few lights or garlands around the room makes things feel festive! Talk about how the church dresses up for Advent, getting ready for Jesus birth. At home we get our houses ready. This matches how we spend time getting our hearts ready to welcome Jesus, too.

Invite children to think of 1 special thing to share with the group of a way they are preparing their home or their heart for Christmas coming.

Transition to the story saying something like, **For the first Christmas, when Jesus was born, God had a lot of getting ready to do, too. In our story today, we'll see how after Mary found out that she was going to give birth to baby Jesus, she went to share the news with her cousin, Elizabeth!**

STORY CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- Wooden figurines to represent Mary and Elizabeth, and baby John
- A green background cloth
- 2 house outlines of felt, placed on opposite ends of the green cloth
- Cloth with "joy"* written on it in purple (the color of advent)

Optional: a recording of Mary's Magnificat

*This lesson is especially wonderful to use on the 2nd Sunday of Advent, when churches remember the candle of "joy".

Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

This story skips the bulk of Mary's song of reflection. Listening to a recording during the end reflection time is a great way to introduce the idea of Mary's Magnificat without getting too abstract with young children.

Luke 1:39-48, 56-58

[The text begins after Mary is greeted by Gabriel and told that she will give birth to Jesus].

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in Judea's hill country. 40 There she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby inside her jumped. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she called out, "God has blessed you more than other women. And blessed is the child you will have! 43 But why is God so kind to me? Why has the mother of my Lord come to me? 44 As soon as I heard the sound of your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy. 45 You are a woman God has blessed. You have believed that the Lord would keep his promises to you!"

46 Mary said, "My soul gives glory to the Lord.

47 My spirit delights in God my Savior.

48 He has taken note of me
even though I am not considered important.
From now on all people will call me blessed.

...

56 Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months. Then she returned home.

57 The time came for Elizabeth to have her baby. She gave birth to a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very kind to her. They shared her joy.

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WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it was like for Elizabeth to feel baby John jump inside of her!

I wonder how God felt when He heard Mary's beautiful song of worship.

I wonder what everyone thought when they saw how God keeps His promises.

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.