

# THE WORD BECAME FLESH



## CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

### #03 – Mary and Joseph Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

**PICTURES** (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

- 3-1 Gabriel speaking to Mary
- 3-2 Joseph having a dream

**REVIEW** (Before teaching lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) Who was Zechariah? What did Gabriel tell him would happen? Why did Zechariah have a hard time believing what Gabriel said? What happened because Zechariah didn't trust Gabriel's message?
- **Big Question Review:** Quest What was John the Baptist sent to do? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Luke 1:76-78a  
John came to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus  
*76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, 77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God.*

## LESSON CONTENT

**Note:** The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

What was unusual about the birth of John the Baptist we saw in the lesson last week? His mother was old and barren. An angel spoke to his father and things happened just as the angel said. His father was unable to speak because he didn't believe the angel.

Even more than the birth of John, the birth of Jesus was accompanied by miraculous signs. Besides the coming of Elijah to prepare the way, what are signs the Old Testament prophets said would accompany the coming of the Messiah? (As the children say the prophecies write the underlined part on the board.)

1. The Messiah would come from the line of David. (Jeremiah 23:5)
2. The Messiah would be born of a virgin. (Isaiah 7:14)
3. The Messiah would come from Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)
4. The child would be called Mighty God. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

To be the awaited Messiah Jesus had to fulfill these prophecies. As we read in this lesson and the next about the events before, at and after Jesus' birth, think about whether or not the birth of Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy.

### Luke 1:26-34 (picture 3-1)

*<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."*

*<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."*

*<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"*

What did the angel Gabriel say to Mary? The angel said that she had found favor with God and she would give birth to the Son of God.

What was Mary's response? She asked, "How will this be since I am a virgin?" She questioned the possibility since it isn't something that normally would happen.

What did Mary's response show about her? Mary didn't fully understand what the angel was saying to her. She didn't comprehend that this was to be a supernatural event, not something that would ordinarily occur.

## Luke 1:35-38

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing is impossible with God."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

How did Gabriel say that Mary would become pregnant? She would become pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. As God first created and then breathed life into Adam by supernatural power, so he would create life in Mary supernaturally.

How did Mary respond to that? She said she was God's servant and would submit to what God wanted to do with her.

Why would that have been a difficult thing for Mary to say? Being pregnant without being married would make her an outcast. She would have been shunned by her family and community. The man she was pledged to marry would reject her. None of that seemed to matter to Mary. She knew God was speaking to her and she wanted to serve and please God, not people.

The account of Jesus' birth in the gospel of Matthew focuses on the man Mary was pledged to marry, Joseph.

## Matthew 1:18-25 (picture 3-2)

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" —which means, "God with us."

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

In Israel a pledge to marry was a binding agreement and could only be broken by a divorce. What showed Joseph was righteous? He didn't want to disgrace Mary. He was inclined to treat her kindly even though her being pregnant was a great embarrassment and shame to him also.

Why didn't he divorce Mary quietly as he first thought of doing? An angel appeared to him in a dream and told him not to. He was obviously convinced that this was what God wanted.

Mary and Joseph both were from the line of King David. They were humble servants of God. What prophecies does this lesson show the birth of Jesus fulfilled?

- The Messiah would come from the line of David. (Jeremiah 23:5)
- The Messiah would be born of a virgin. (Isaiah 7:14)
- The child would be called Mighty God. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

## LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What did the angel Gabriel say would happen to Mary? What was Mary's response to Gabriel? What did Joseph want to do when he found out Mary was pregnant? Why didn't he do that? What prophecies did the readings from the lesson show the birth of Jesus fulfilled?
- **Thought Questions:** Why do you think God chose Mary and Joseph to be the earthly parents of Jesus?
- **Prayer:** Thank God for Mary and Joseph and their love for and obedience to God. Pray that you would stand for what is right as they did and obey God even when it is difficult.
- **The Big Question: How was Jesus conceived**  
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Luke 1:35**  
Jesus' conception was a miracle of God by the power of his Holy Spirit.

*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.*

Questions: How was Jesus conceived? What does that make him?

## ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group.

What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

- **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.  
Jesus' conception was a miracle of God by the power of his Holy Spirit.

- ★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.

- **Craft:** Angel

As the angel Gabriel played an important role in both John the Baptist and Jesus, cut out and decorate an angel hanging.

Materials: card stock paper, ribbon or string, scissors, glue sticks

Preparation: Run off the craft on card stock paper. Cut in half.

Instructions: Cut out the pieces to the angel. Glue the pieces together with the yellow halo behind the head. Draw a face on the angel. Poke a hole through the halo and tie a loop of string through it.

- **Game:** Thread the Needle (A common thread tying the Old and New Testaments together)  
This game serves as a reminder that the coming of Jesus ties the Old and New Testaments together. He is the common theme through both. He has and always will exist. He is also what ties all mankind to God.

Materials: 2 teaspoons, 2 balls of string, one ball tied tightly to each spoon

Instructions:

1. Divide the group into two teams, each team with the same number of people.
2. With both teams starting at the same time the first person on the team strings the spoon down through his shirt and one pant leg and then passes it on to the next person.
3. When the last person on the team has "threaded the needle" he then begins the process of "unthreading the needle."
4. The first team to unthread and roll up the string in a neat ball wins.

## JOURNAL

The daily journal is included in the booklet for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.