

A season of faith

**Bible verses:**

Luke 1:26-38

The Virgin Mary

**Aim:**

To discover the message of faith found in the birth of Jesus

**Today's fruit:**

Faithfulness



In today's session we are going to think about faith and how we can follow Mary's example of faith in our own lives.

God's people waited a long time for Jesus to come to earth. They had heard God's promise from Isaiah, and now it would come true through Mary, a young woman with a lot of faith.

Mary put her faith in God because she could trust in his faithfulness.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- A sheet of A3 coloured one side blue, and a sheet of A4 white paper, glue, scissors, thick cotton/string, coins to draw around (2p and 10p may work well) and flesh-coloured pencils (optional)
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- A small prize for the quiz winner (optional)
- Today's fruit sign: *Faithfulness*
- To watch **Mary and Jesus Christmas Craft** uploaded by Andrew Meininger



Start it

Start with a Christmas quiz for the children. Explain that they are trying to guess the most common answer to get the highest points. After each question, pause the clip and encourage the children to write down their answer and any points it earned. You don't need to use them all but there are ten questions in total. If possible, have a prize ready for the winner.

Video

Christmas top five quiz Fun Christmas Quiz by Games4esl (6:35)



Sing it

Say:

Today we're learning about faith, especially the faith Mary showed when she trusted in God. Our song reminds us to walk by faith, just like Mary did.

Song

'Walk by faith' by PCBC Kids (3:28)



Tell it

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us of the promise God made to his people. Isaiah shared the news that the Son of God would come to earth to be with us. Let's share it together.

Read:

'A child will be born to us.

God will give a son to us.

He will be responsible for leading the people.

His name will be Wonderful Counsellor, Powerful God,

Father Who Lives For Ever, Prince of Peace.'

(Isaiah 9:6 ICB)

Say:

The people had to wait a really long time for that promise to come true. In our last session we learned about Isaiah who talked about Jesus 700 years before he was born. The very last book in the Old Testament was written by Malachi, and he was talking about Jesus 400 years before he was born. There are lots of good reasons why God waited as long as he did to send Jesus into the world.

Either watch the following clip with your group, or discuss two of the possible reasons God might have waited so long to keep his promise.

Video (option one)

Between the Old & New Testaments by Time of Grace Ministry

Watch: 0.00-1:37 ‘So maybe that’s why God allowed such a gap before sending his son to be the saviour from our sins.’

Discuss (option two)

- Thanks to the Greek Empire, and Alexander the Great, everyone now spoke the same language – Greek.
- Thanks to the Roman Empire, there were good transport links everywhere.

Say:

As we discussed in the last session, waiting can be hard. Sometimes we get frustrated when we are waiting for God to answer our prayers and we want things to change.

Ask:

- What do you feel like when you know something is going to change but you are waiting for it to happen? Can you think of any examples?
- How do/did you react when change is on the way?

Say:

Before God could send his son to live on earth, he needed to make sure everything was in place. God’s people waited a long time for his promise to come true. Their strong faith in God helped them to keep believing that he would keep his promises.

Say:

Like many other Jewish people, Mary was waiting for God to keep his promise. I wonder if she knew what a large part she would play and how much faith she would need to be part of the story.

Read:

‘During Elizabeth’s sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, “Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you.”

‘But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, “What does this mean?”

‘The angel said to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob for ever. His kingdom will never end.”

‘Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen? I am a virgin!”

‘The angel said to Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the

Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. God can do everything!”

‘Mary said, “I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!” Then the angel went away.’

(Luke 1:26-38 *ICB*)

Ask:

- Gabriel came to tell Mary that her life was going to completely change. What did Gabriel say straight away to reassure Mary? (v28)
- Have you ever felt confused, like Mary, about things changing in your life?
- What did Gabriel say to Mary when he saw that she was confused? (v30)

Say:

God had two important messages for Mary:

- God is with you.
- Don't be afraid.

Ask:

- How do you think Gabriel's messages helped Mary to keep her faith in God's plan for her life?
- How does Gabriel's message help us to have a strong faith today even when things are uncertain?

Say:

Mary had no idea what the future would hold or how the people around her would react to her pregnancy. She put all her faith in God and promised to do exactly what he asked of her.

Read:

‘Mary said, “I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!” Then the angel went away.’

(Luke 1:38 *ICB*)

Say:

God does amazing things when we put our faith in him. We can trust him to look after us, no matter how many changes we face.

Action it

Display the *Faithfulness* sign.

Say:

Our fruit of the Spirit for today is faithfulness. We can always put our faith in God, and he will always be faithful.

Ask:

- In what ways was God faithful to Mary?
- How did God show that he could be trusted?
- How did Mary respond?

Say:

To remind us of the faithfulness of God, and the faith Mary placed in him, we're going to make a decoration for your Christmas tree.

The clip below shows you how to make a Mary and Jesus Christmas tree ornament. It is for the leader's use only but will give a clear idea how to make the ornament.

Video

Mary and Jesus Christmas craft uploaded by Andrew Meinzinger (7:24)



Pray it

Say:

When Mary was facing big changes in her life, she decided to have faith in God and praise him. For our prayer today, we are going to listen to what Mary had to say in response to God.

Video

Christmas 2020 - The Magnificat by thisischristianaid (1:12)

To bring the session to a close, ask each child to think of one thing they would thank God for in a song of praise. When each child has shared, pray together as a group.



Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

A season of faith

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Luke 1:26-38



Aim:
To discover the message of faith found in the birth of Jesus



Today's fruit:
Faithfulness



Write

Mary sang her own song to God to show how much faith she had in him. Have a look at Luke 1:46-55 and use Mary's song to help you create your own song of praise to God.



Create

Watch the following video and think of a way to create part of the Christmas story using animation. Ask the people at home to help you.

King's Kids at Home - Story of Mary & Gabriel (Luke 1:26-38) by King's Norwich



Song for the week

'Walk by Faith' by PCBC Kids



Memory verse

'A child will be born to us.
God will give a son to us.
He will be responsible for leading the people.
His name will be Wonderful Counsellor,
Powerful God,
Father Who Lives For Ever, Prince of Peace.'

(Isaiah 9:6 ICB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Kids Alive! Online - salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic - is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth

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(Isaiah 9:6 ICB)



Start it

Today we're learning about faith, especially the
faith Mary showed when she trusted in God.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Luke 1:26-
38 or watch the following clip.

God's Story: Mary by Crossroads Kids'
Club

Watch 0.00-1:08 'She trusted in God's
plan even if it didn't make sense yet.'

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share
together:

- What stories did Mary grow up listening to?
- Who did God send to tell Mary about
Jesus? How did she react at first?

- What was Mary the first person to hear
about?
- What kind of things did Mary sing about in
her song of praise?



Sing It

'Mary's boy child' with lyrics by Christmas
Songs and Carols - Love to Sing (4:01)

'All through history' Nicky & Becky Drake
by Worship For Everyone (3:36)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible
passage:

- Mary described God as powerful, merciful,
just and a promise- keeper. What do these
words mean? Think of an action to go with
each of these descriptions of God.
- Find a friend to act out the moment when
the angel appeared to Mary.
- Faithfulness is when we are loyal, reliable
and consistent. Draw a picture to show
what it might look like to be a faithful
friend at school.
- Mary grew up listening to stories about
God. Tell a friend your favourite story
about Jesus.