

Mary's Story – Bible Story

Leader: Today we have with us a very special guest, the angel Gabriel. Sometimes people call Gabriel the Christmas angel because Gabriel announced the birth of Jesus. Gabriel will share with us that amazing event.

Gabriel: Thank you for asking me to share with you the most important message I have delivered. I am Gabriel, an archangel—one of the chief messengers for God. My name means “God is great” and “God is my strength.” On several occasions I appeared to humans to give them messages from God. I spoke to Daniel and explained his vision to him. I also appeared to Zechariah in the temple to announce the birth of his son John. But I want to tell you about the time I spoke to Mary and announced the birth of the Messiah.

God sent me to Galilee to speak to a young woman named Mary. She was a faithful follower of God, and at that time, she was betrothed to Joseph, who was a righteous man. I announced my appearance by telling Mary, “Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!”

Mary was startled when I first appeared to her. That was the normal reaction I got when I appeared to human beings. So, I said to Mary,



“Don’t be afraid. God is honoring you.” That was great praise coming from God.

I continued with my message, “Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob’s house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom.”

I don’t think Mary was afraid of me or of my message, but she was definitely confused. She asked me, “How can I have a baby since I’m not married yet?” My message was very hard to understand because there had never been a birth of a child like this one.

I explained to Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son. Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled ‘unable to conceive’ is now six months pregnant. Nothing is impossible for God.”

Mary humbly accepted my explanation and told me, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.” Then I left her.

Mary knew the Scriptures and she knew about the coming Messiah. She didn’t ask for or seek this role in God’s plans. God simply stepped into her life and brought her into God’s service. She was honored for her faithfulness and openness to serve God. Mary knew the birth of this child would not be easy for her. The journey before her would have many problems, but she believed God, and she chose to serve God.

(Based on Luke 1:26-38)

1b Hidden Pictures – Puzzle (Preschool)

Look carefully at your picture of Mary and the angel Gabriel. Find 3 hidden items in the picture and circle them.



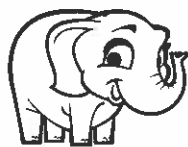
First Letter Code - Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

1c

Solve the code by taking the first letter of each picture. Then use the numbered letters to solve the puzzle, and you will find the message that the angel gave to Mary.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



17



18

4 2 17 6 3 7 2

5 6 12

16 3 14 14

11 3 10 2

13 3 4 1 18

1 6






15

8 6 9



1d Grid Code – Puzzle (Older Elementary)

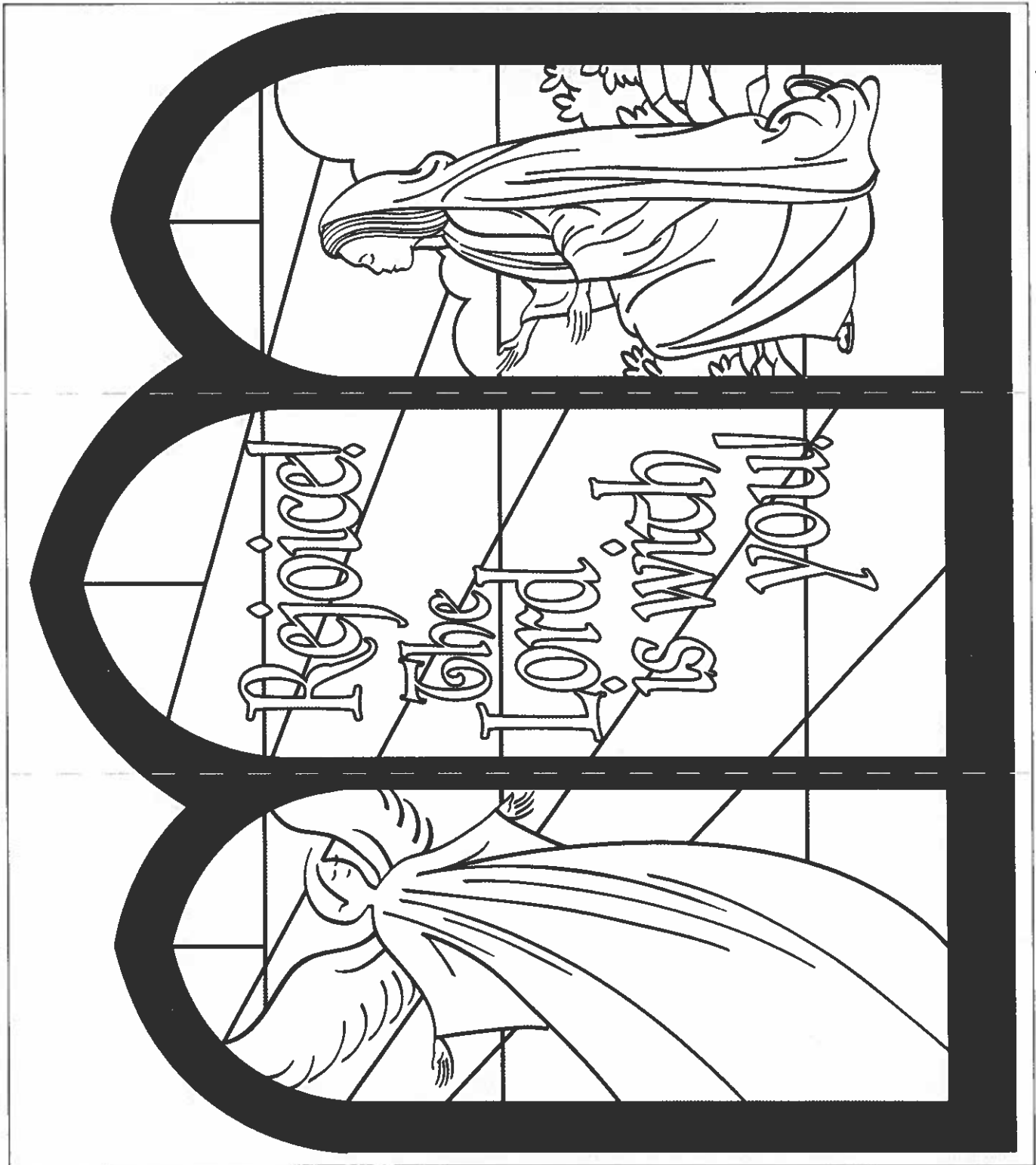
Use the top grid to find the letters in the bottom grid to fill in the blanks for the answer. For the first letter, look at the box where fish and 1 intersect. It is the number 6. Go down that column in the second grid until you are beside the number 6. The letter in that column by the 6 is H. Write H in the first empty blank of the answer. Continue using these steps by moving left to right across the row and then down to the next rows.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	6	3	8	1	4	7	5	2	5	10
	2	9	1	6	9	3	8	9	3	7
	10	5	4	2	8	2	1	6	8	4
	4	7	10	5	2	6	4	1	9	2
	8	1	6	9	6	4	3	7	10	

1	A	M	T	I	R	E	L	F	Y	T
2	E	I	Z	E	O	A	F	E	A	H
3	W	E	G	P	S	D	I	M	W	G
4	T	D	B	J	L	H	O	D	B	D
5	O	L	X	S	K	X	B	P	G	J
6	H	M	O	A	T	N	K	L	H	O
7	B	H	Y	V	N	L	A	G	V	I
8	E	C	W	F	C	K	H	U	E	N
9	Q	A	U	S	N	Z	Y	E	T	E
10	L	R	E	T	W	B	C	S	H	R

ANSWER:

H



1f Angel Food – Snack

Ingredients

Bugles®
Pretzels
Cheerios®
Oyster crackers
White icing



Directions

- Stand your Bugle up on the open end of the cone.
- Use white icing at the top of the cone to attach an oyster cracker for the face. Use the white icing to draw eyes and a mouth on it.
- Use white icing on the top of the oyster cracker to attach a Cheerio for the halo.
- Take a twisted knot pretzel and break off the bottom piece between the two knots. Break it into two pieces and place them together with icing to form the angel's praying hands. Position them in the front of the cone just under the oyster cracker.
- Use the rest of the twisted knot pretzel to make the wings. Attach it to the back of the cone using the icing.
- Make several angels for your snack.

Mary's Story

Luke 1:26-38

Mary was a young woman who lived in Nazareth. She was promised in marriage to Joseph. But before they were married, an angel appeared to Mary. The angel told her that she was favored by God and announced to her that she would have a son. The son would be named Jesus, and he would be called the Son of the Most High. Mary was confused by the angel's message, but the angel told her, "Nothing is impossible for God." Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said."

Verse of the Month

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people." Luke 2:10

What Do You Think?

How do you think Mary felt when she saw the angel?

Has God ever asked you to do something big?
Share the story with your family.

Family Activity

Talk about what it means to be the Lord's servant.

Make angel cookies together and take some to your neighbors to celebrate the Christmas story.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to be born on earth and for Mary's example of a servant. Help us have Mary's willing spirit to serve; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.