

## ANNOUNCEMENT TO JOSEPH AND MARY

### Scripture:

Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

**Memory Verse:** *Luke 1:38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."*

**Objectives:** As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—When Gabriel told Mary, a godly virgin who was engaged to Joseph, that she was going to conceive by the Holy Spirit, she submitted to God's plan despite what it might do to her personal reputation. When Gabriel told Joseph, a godly man engaged to Mary, to take Mary as his wife because she would give birth to the Messiah, Joseph did it and kept her a virgin until Jesus was born, despite what it might do to his personal reputation.

To Realize—Regardless of the good plans one has for their lives, when one realizes what God wants of them, they must do it regardless of what others might think of them.

To Respond by—saying "yes" to whatever God wants of them.

### Setting up the Story:

What would you say if I told you that Miss Miller were pregnant? (wait for shocked responses.) Why would that shock you? (because she follows the Lord; she has a good reputation.) What questions would immediately come to your mind? (who is the father; is so-and-so the father?) I want us to look in Luke 1:26.

#### Telling the story:

- I. Mary Responds to Gabriel's Message
  - A. Engaged to Joseph
    1. binding agreement
    2. woman of God
    3. living in Nazareth
  - B. Message
    1. "Don't be afraid, Lord is with you"
    2. "You will conceive"
    3. (Mary doesn't understand)
    4. "By the Holy Spirit"

#### As you tell the story:

Usually there was a period of one year between the engagement and the wedding. Why? To make sure the woman wasn't pregnant.

This was very confusing news! Mary wasn't married to Joseph yet.

Elizabeth was past the child-bearing age: and she was expecting a baby?! If God could do

- 5. Elizabeth pregnant
  - 6. Nothing Impossible with God
  - C. Mary Submits: Be it unto me according to your word
- II. Joseph Responds to Gabriel's Message
- A. Mary found pregnant
  - B. Going to privately divorce her
  - C. Message:
    - 1. take as your wife
    - 2. Conceived by Holy Spirit
    - 3. Call Jesus
  - D. Joseph Obeys
    - 1. Marries Mary
    - 2. Keeps her a virgin

that, God could do what he had said to Mary.  
 But wait a minute. If Mary said "yes" do you see any problems? What would other people think? What would happen to her reputation? The one thing NONE of you wondered when I said about Miss Miller being pregnant was, "Oh, was it by the Holy Spirit?" And no one in that day was going to ask that either!  
 What would it mean for Mary to say "yes"?  
 And we have someone else involved in this as well. Imagine Joseph when someone first told him the news, "Mary is expecting a baby!" He must have felt sick! He could have had Mary stoned to death but he chose to privately give her a divorce. He was a godly man. And if he married her, what would people assume?

What would it mean for Joseph to do what the angel told him? What would that do to his reputation?

**Concluding the Story:**

Wow! The most wonderful news in the world: the Savior we've been waiting for has come! God has chosen Mary to bring the Messiah into the world! And yet, for Joseph and Mary it is going to cost them their own reputations in order to say "yes" to God's will. Why did they say "yes"? If God asked you to do something that was going to affect your reputation, would you have the same answer?

**Boardwork and Student Notes:**

**Mary and Joseph Obey**  
Luke 1, Matthew 1



**Luke 1:26**

- Mary engaged to Joseph
- Living in Nazareth

**Gabriel's Announcement**

*"Fear not, you: don't be afraid. You will conceive the Son of the Most High."*

REPUTATION AT STAKE

*"Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife."*

**Answer:**

I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as the Lord has said. - "YES."

Maries Mary.  
Keeps her a virgin until after Jesus is born. - "YES."