



MARY PRAISED GOD

Luke 1:26-56

Dear Parents,

God's people had not heard a clear message from God for hundreds of years. Then one day, Gabriel—an angel of the Lord—told a man that his wife, Elizabeth, was going to have a baby. The baby's name would be John. Then the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would have a baby, and her baby would be God's Son.

Mary and Elizabeth were relatives. Elizabeth was old and barren; she and her husband, Zechariah, had no children. Mary was a young girl—likely in her early teens. She was a virgin, engaged to be married to Joseph. The announcements of these pregnancies were miraculous for both women. Both babies had been foretold by the prophet Isaiah—John in Isaiah 40:3 and Jesus in Isaiah 7:14.

The angel Gabriel told Mary that Elizabeth was pregnant too, and Mary hurried to see her. The journey would not have been easy. Mary traveled nearly one hundred miles to see Elizabeth, and her arrival brought great joy to both Elizabeth and Elizabeth's unborn baby. In the presence of the unborn Messiah, John leaped in Elizabeth's womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she said, "Mary, you are blessed!"

The story of Mary's visit with Elizabeth gives us a remarkable picture of women living by faith. Being a young, unwed pregnant woman could have caused Mary to worry. Instead, her response is marked by her trust in God. Mary's song reflects her knowledge of God's Word and her understanding of who God is.

Christ Connection

Mary was willing to follow God's plan, even though being Jesus' mother would not be easy. Mary wanted to bring praise to God. Likewise, Jesus brought praise to His Father by willingly dying on the cross to save people from sin.

Check this session's Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- Babies and Toddlers
 - Jesus is God's Son.
 - God promised to send Jesus to earth.
 - Mary praised God for sending Jesus.
 - Nothing is impossible with God.
- Preschool
 - What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.
 - Jesus' mother was Mary.
- Kids
 - What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.
 - God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- 1 Timothy 1:15

NEXT WEEK

- "Jesus Was Born" (Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:1-20)



Our Vision for Children

At Harlan Baptist Church we take seriously the Lord's command to "bring [our children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

We envision a church culture or atmosphere that reflects that of Moses' instruction to God's people as they prepared to enter into the Promised Land as found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

In fact, Psalm 78 sets forth the very desire of our heart, that our children would hope in the Lord and not forget the God who gives them life.

Therefore, it is our desire to partner with parents in seeing our children come to faith in Christ and prepare them for life-long obedience to His Word.

At Harlan Baptist, we use a number of different methods and teaching styles to achieve these desired goals.

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