

Gospel for December 20, 2020 - lesson for 4th-6th grade

Read the below Gospel slowly listening for words or phrases that catch your attention. Read it again then think about the answers to the first couple questions. Read it again and think about the answers to the next couple questions. Continue to re-read the Gospel and think about possible answers. Do you think you get a deeper understanding by re-reading the story multiple times? Do you find yourself focusing on different parts? What word(s) or phrase(s) stood out to you?

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Notes:

- ◆ We often think of angels as being female, but Gabriel is referred to as "he."
- ◆ Mary will be Jesus' mother.
- ◆ Elizabeth is Mary's older cousin.
- ◆ The baby that Elizabeth is carrying will grow up to be the man we already know as John the Baptist.

Things to discuss or think about:

- ◆ Who's Gabriel?
- ◆ Why is Gabriel sent?
- ◆ What does Gabriel say to Mary?
- ◆ How do you think Mary feels when she hears this message?
- ◆ How would you feel if God sent an angel with a message for you? What would you do?

- ◆ What does *Gabriel* say about *Mary's* son?
- ◆ What does *Gabriel* tell *Mary* about her relative *Elizabeth*? about *God*?
- ◆ What does *Mary* say to *Gabriel* before he leaves? How do you think *Mary* feels now?
- ◆ What messages from *God* do we hear at church? At home? from friends? in our own hearts?
- ◆ In what ways does *God* get messages to us today?
- ◆ What messages do you think *God* has given to you?

Activity:

As we've done before, picture yourself in the story as you read (or close your eyes and listen as someone else reads it so you are "seeing" the lesson). Where were you? What does it feel like? How does the scene look to you? Can you see the expression on *Mary's* face? Draw the scene. Or look online for artists' interpretations of the scene. Do you think they have it right?