

03 – Birth Announcement – Jesus! **Luke 1:26-38**

Step 1: Link (to last time)

Last week we had the story of a very special birth announcement. What was the name of the baby in our story last week? (... *John*) John was going to have very special work when he grew up. John was going to get people ready for – who? (... *Jesus!*) Today we will read about another very special birth announcement! The announcement of Jesus' birth!

Step 2: Background (none this week)

Step 3: Key Questions

- **Who was Jesus?** (*v.32,33: Son of God Most High, king, eternal kingdom*)
- **How was Jesus born?** (*v.35: the Holy Spirit would come down on the virgin Mary*)

Step 4: Read Luke 1:26-38

Step 5: Answer the questions

Step 6: Talk about it

Was Jesus' birth a miracle? (... !!!) Jesus' birth is one of the most famous miracles in the Bible! But Jesus' birth is a miracle that is easy to doubt. No one saw the Holy Spirit come down on Mary. This is a very unusual way to become pregnant. What does the Bible tell us? Look at v. 37. What does v. 37 say? (... *s.o. reads*) In Genesis we learned that God lets one woman have children, and doesn't let another woman have children. God is in control of having children. God is able to do a miracle to make Mary have this holy child.

Who was Mary? (... *v.26,27: a virgin girl, lived in Nazareth, engaged to Joseph*) So she seems like an ordinary young girl. She was waiting to get married. Her husband was a descendant of Israel's most famous king, King David. Then, on this day, her life changes very much.

Who is the angel? (*v.26; Gabriel*) So the same angel, Gabriel, was chosen to go to Mary with this amazing news.

Did Mary believe the angel? (... *hard question, see here what they think*) Let's look at Mary's question. Look at v. 34. What does Mary ask Gabriel in v.

34? (... s.o. reads it) What is Gabriel's answer? (v.35 . . . read) Gabriel answers Mary's question.

Now let's look at part of last week's story. Zechariah also asked Gabriel a question. Look at v. 18. What is Zechariah's question? (v. 18 ... s.o. reads) Do you think Zechariah's question is like Mary's question? (... I think so, let them answer) What is Gabriel's answer to Zechariah? (v. 19,20 ... s.o. reads) Gabriel doesn't answer Zechariah's question like he answers Mary's question. Instead, Gabriel tells Zechariah, "You didn't believe!" Somehow Gabriel knew what was in Zechariah's heart. Do you think that Gabriel knew what was in Mary's heart, too? (... opinion q, let them answer)

Two questions, two different answers. I think Gabriel knew what was in Mary's heart. I think Mary had a very pure, childlike faith. She was ready to do whatever God wanted her to do. What does Mary say in v. 38? (v.38 ... s.o. reads) "I am the Lord's servant." Mary understood that she was God's servant. She trusted God and loved Him. She was ready to obey. And now she give birth to "the Son of the Most High."

Because Zechariah didn't believe he was given a punishment. Do you remember Zechariah's punishment? (... he couldn't talk until the baby was born) His punishment became a wonderful sign to the people. Everyone knew that Zechariah had talked to an angel. Everyone knew that something wonderful was going to happen.

What about Mary? Was there also a sign that everyone could see? (. . . twice the think time – people would see her getting fat because of the baby) People did see Mary get fat because of the baby. People knew that she was not married. When Jesus grew up, some people would remember this, and insult Him. People were also probably rude to Mary. It is not easy to be a servant of God!

Do you have any questions or comments?

Teachers' Notes:

I use a lot of repetition in writing the Bible times. Repetition is good for your students English comprehension. You may feel somewhat foolish repeating the same phrase over and over in such a short time, but your students will benefit from the repetition. By repeating your are building on what you've said, adding little by little. The alternative, our tendency, is to say things in new and different ways, which only introduces new language problems for them to solve. And since Bible time is not really about English, a barrage of language problems has a high probability of causing them to simply tune out. But remember, they'll still look interested for your sake . . .

(s.o. = "someone")