

Dear Student,

This month, the story we will be reading takes place long after Daniel. The people who had been taken to Babylon returned home. Many years later, the Romans had taken over. Mary is a young woman living in Israel under Roman rule. We will be learning about Mary. You've probably already heard of her. You know her as the mother of Jesus and have probably heard about the angel visiting her. Every Christmas, we retell her story. Why are we talking about her now, in April? You may have noticed that the bible is not one book. It is a book with many books in it. These books are split into two sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. We are moving away from the Old Testament people and into the New Testament. What's the difference? The Old Testament has the stories of God before God became incarnate. Incarnate means in human form. God became human in the person of Jesus. The New Testament has the stories of God after God became incarnate. This story starts with Mary.

In your bible, turn to the book of Luke (it is the 3rd book in the New Testament). Please read Chapter 1, verses 26 - 56.

How do you think you would react to seeing angel?

Throughout the bible, angel tell people to not be afraid. Have you ever been afraid?

God doesn't want people to be afraid. In what ways can God help you not be afraid?

Mary is asked to become the mother of God. This is big responsibility. Have you ever been given a big responsibility?

How do you think you may have responded if you were Mary?

Later in the bible, we read that Mary gets help with this task from Joseph. How can you help others?

In what ways does your family help each other?

Mary goes and visits her cousin Elizabeth. She sings a song (verse 46-55). How does she feel about God?

How do you feel about God?

Mary is humble and thankful in a very difficult situation. She is pregnant and not yet married. In those days, she would be ostracized. But Mary trusts God. How does her story help you trust God?

Does Mary's song help you understand how God has worked in the world (and is continuing to work)?

Mary's song is called The Magnificat. You can see an animated video of Mary singing her song here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rj4Mx7xHZ28>

In your packet is fun look at angels throughout the bible. There's a blank sheet of paper for you to draw your own idea of an angel. There are also some worksheets and a fact sheet about helping others.

Next month, we will meet Peter.

There are on-line lessons at <http://stannes-billerica.org/sunday-school-videos/>. These are lessons from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and not about the people of the bible that we are meeting in our take-home series.

-Brenda Komarinski

Angels throughout the Bible:

Well, according to Ezekiel 1 they might look something like this...



According to Daniel 10 something like this...



According to Isaiah 6...



In Ezekiel 10...



Again in Ezekiel 10...



Basically, when the people writing Scripture tried to describe what they saw when they saw an angel... they run into the end of their imagination... they can never quite seem to fully explain it because they had trouble even comprehending what they saw, let alone being able to describe it to someone else.



Yeah, that's usually how people responded to seeing them in the Bible...

Yeah, that's usually how people responded to seeing them in the Bible...

There's a good reason why angels' standard greeting is 'Do not be afraid'.

I used to listen to this radio show and one thing I remember because it was so funny was a Christmas special where an angel showed up to tell the shepherds about the birth of Christ. The conversations went:

Angel: "FEAR NOT."

Shepherds: *screaming*

Angel: "I SAID FEAR NOT."

Shepherds: *screaming LOUDER*

Angel: "WHAT PART OF FEAR NOT ARE YOU NOT UNDERSTANDING?"

So demons are fallen angels but they don't look scary because they're fallen, that's just what all angels look like...

Maybe that's why so many Christians see visions of Saints or the Virgin Mary instead...like Jesus is all...no, no see being human made me realize sending Angels might not be the best idea. I don't know if humans can handle this. So I'm gonna just send mom

[@fem-deanwinchester](#)

I'M GONNA JUST SEND MOM

God: The humans are scared.

Mary: Fine. I'm on it.

Jesus: It's either Mom or the thousand eyed flaming wheel, Dad, do you really think the humans are gonna be chill with that when they're terrified of spiders already?

God: Hey now, some of those spiders eat birds.

Jesus: ...Dad...

God: ...To be fair, Australian wildlife was my dark creation phase.

Australian wildlife was my dark creation phase

Mary's Song

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46 (NIV)

Words are taken from Luke 1:46-55 (NIV).



J Q F E A R B W R P H B N O E
 R Y W W G X O J I R U H E R J
 Y K C T W L U Y C O S O Z T H
 I Y G H W B O L H U Y L T M U
 Y M E S R E U R M D X Y H U N
 B D E E W O J Z I E D Q R B G
 L S O R S K Y Q D F V F O E R
 E S T V C U N F E B I J N S Y
 S P W A R Y D E E D S E E D K
 S I F N M I G H T Y T C S E S
 E R C T H I N G S T I N L R E
 D I F V Q P E V A O P B E M F
 Z T H M W G H E J N M L A C Y
 G O G Y I R R E F U U N H Q S
 N H C F R G R F H R J M T S C

blessed
deeds
fear
glorifies

great
holy
humble
hungry

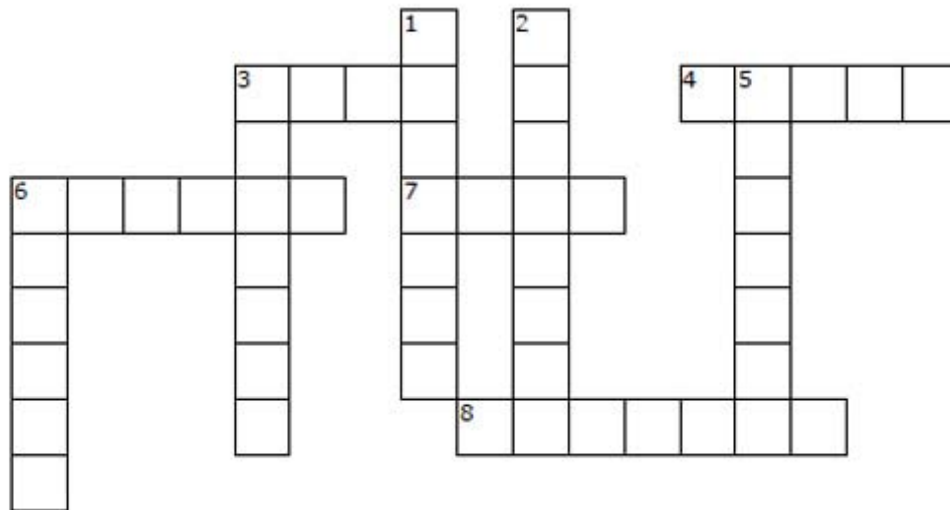
mercy
mighty
name
proud

rejoices
rich
rulers
servant

soul
spirit
things
thrones

Mary's Song

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. The spiritual part of humans which lives forever
4. To be filled excessive self-esteem
6. To feel the need or desire for food
7. Having great wealth
8. Having good things given to you, especially from God

DOWN

1. To give honor, praise, and adoration to
2. To show mercy or compassion to another
3. One who yields or surrenders to the will or authority of another
5. To express great joy or happiness
6. Not proud or boastful

soul	rejoice	blessed	hungry	servant
glorify	humble	proud	rich	merciful

FACT FILE: Helping others

FUN FACTS:

- 5 September is the International Day of Charity.
- The world record for volunteering is 77,019 hours!
- The largest sponsored walk was in the Philippines. There were more than 175,000 people!

Helping others is a great thing to do. You can learn new things and have fun. You can help people, animals or the environment. It can make you feel good too! How can you help?



Charities are organisations that help others, for example, UNICEF or the World Wildlife Fund. You can help charities by giving your time, giving money or giving things that you own. You can also help people or places you know.

Volunteering

Volunteering is when you give your time to help others. Some ways of volunteering are:

- visiting old people to talk to them or help them
- walking dogs at an animal shelter
- cleaning up a park.



Fundraising

Fundraising is when you collect money to help others. Some ways of fundraising are:

- making cakes or biscuits to sell
- doing a sponsored activity. For example, family and friends give you money if you finish a long walk.

Donating

Donating is when you give your things to help others. Some ways of donating are:

- giving your old toys or clothes to a charity that helps sick children or poor people
- giving your old books to a library.



So, what can *you* do to help others?

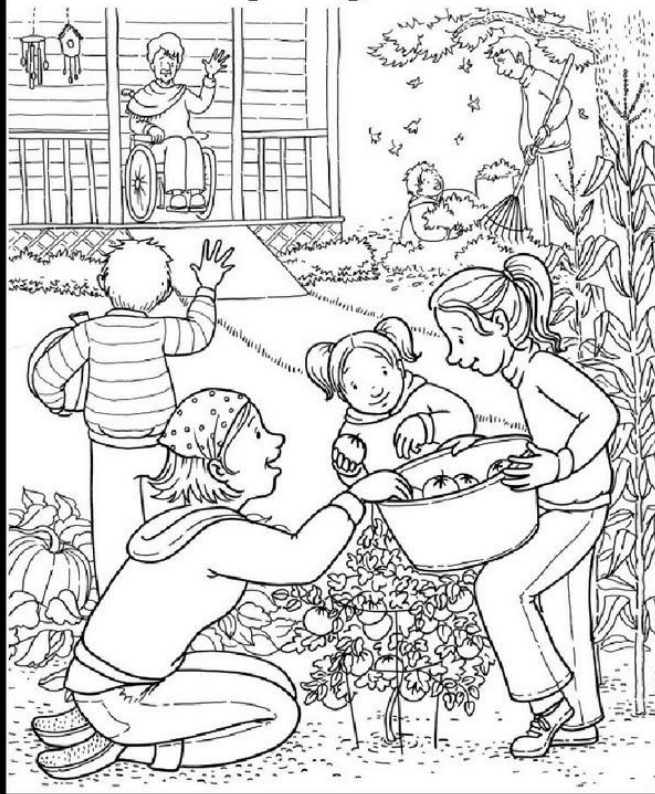
...Showing Love



...Giving My time



...Helping Others



...Showing Kindness

