



BIBLE STORY:
The Announcement
Matthew 1:18-24

Mary was a young woman who lived in the small town of Nazareth. She was in love with a man named Joseph who was a carpenter. They planned to get married soon. As she was quietly thinking, she was suddenly surprised when a voice said, REJOICE! It was a beautiful sound but Mary wondered what it meant. She looked up and saw an angel who told her the most wonderful news: "Mary, you are favored by God. Do not be afraid because God is with you. He has chosen you to be the mother of God's own Son. You will name Him JESUS. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest. He will reign as King and His kingdom will have no end."

Mary was amazed at this marvelous announcement. She and her people had waited for a very long time for God's promise of a Savior. She believed that God's promises were true, but could she really be the chosen one to be the mother of this special baby? Mary said to the angel, "I am not yet married to Joseph. How is it possible that I would have a child?" The angel answered, "This baby will come by the power of God through the Holy Spirit. Nothing is impossible with God."

Mary was filled with joy as she listened and believed what the angel had told her and said, "I am the Lord's handmaiden. Let it happen just as you have said."

Then the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel gave him the message about Mary being the mother of God's Son. The angel told him to not be worried about taking Mary as his wife because the baby she would have would save all people from their sins if they believed in Him. Joseph believed the angel's message.

Mary and Joseph were soon married. They were very happy and knew that God would take care of them. When the Roman ruler commanded all the people to go back to the city in which they were born to be counted, Mary and Joseph began their journey to Bethlehem which was about eighty miles from Nazareth. It was in this city that Jesus, God's Son would be born.

God was watching over them and even though there were no rooms left for them to stay in the **Inn** when they arrived in the city of Bethlehem, there was a warm stable where they could rest. It was on this very special night that God sent His Son to come to the world to bring His love to all people.



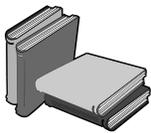
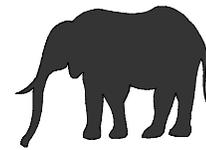
Guided Prayer Thought

Thank you God for sending Your very own Son Jesus to show me what Your love is really like! Help me to share this Good News with others.

Bible Words To Remember

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest...and of His kingdom there will be no end.

Luke 1:32-33



WORD MEANINGS

- messenger: one who tells a person something from another
- rejoice: be extremely happy
- meant: what the thinking is concerning something
- avored: one who is chosen above another
- reign: rule over
- kingdom: all the lands and people in one place
- handmaiden: a girl servant
- journey: a trip away from home
- Inn: like a motel

**QUESTIONS**

1. Tell three things about Mary:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

2. Who did God choose to be the mother of His own Son?

3. What four things did the angel tell her?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

4. What else would God's Son be called? _____

5. Complete: He will _____ as king and His _____
will have no _____.

6. What question did she ask the angel? _____

7. Complete: The angel said, "Nothing is _____
with _____."

8. Tell the message that the angel of God gave to Joseph in a dream?

9. What would be the purpose of this very special baby? _____

10. Which city did Mary and Joseph travel to? _____

11. How far was Bethlehem from Nazareth? _____

12. Why did they have to make this journey? _____

13. Give the reason that Mary and Joseph stayed in the stable.

14. Who was watching and taking care of Mary and Joseph?

15. What would Jesus show to all the world? _____



Draw your favorite part of the story.