

Breaking from tradition

**Verse:**

Luke 1:26-38,57-64
The Virgin Mary

**Aim:**

To know that trusting God might mean doing things differently

There are lots of times in our lives when we feel afraid, but God reassures us that he is always with us.

In our Bible stories today, the characters had to break away from what was expected of them. They knew that others would not necessarily agree with their choices, but they also understood that trusting God meant they needed to do things differently.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- Explore It Ideas handout

You will need:

- Card and craft materials
- Material to create the 'Peace' candle (this will depend on the method you chose for your group)



Start it

The aim of today's activity is to encourage the children and give them an opportunity to share and discuss what they are afraid of. A clip is provided as a discussion starter. Throughout the session, there will be opportunities to reinforce that God tells us we do not need to be afraid and that we can trust him in any situation we face.

Video

100 Kids Tell Us Their Fears/100 Kids by HiHo Kids

Sing it

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us of the amazing message of good news brought to everyone by the angels. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ the Lord."'

(Luke 2:10-11 *ICB*)

Say:

The song for today is based around Luke 2:10-11 and should help us to learn our memory verse.



Video

Motions (Luke 2:10-11) by Saddleback Kids (2:28)

Tell it

Say:

As we discovered in the Start It activity, we are all afraid of different things. It may be spiders, snakes, heights – or even bananas! We may be afraid of what other people think. Throughout the Christmas story, there are many characters asked to do things that would make them feel afraid. Each time God reassured them that there was nothing to fear.

Video

An Angel Visits Mary / Birth of Jesus (Part 1/3) by Christmas Story for Kids (stop clip at 3:00)

Ask:

Mary was engaged but wasn't married to Joseph. Why was the angel's news that Mary would have a baby such a scary idea?

Say:

The rules about marriage were very strict in the time of Mary and Joseph. Mary could have been very afraid of what others would think of her. She may have been afraid of even losing Joseph as her future husband.

Ask:

- What did the angel say would happen to Mary?
- How did he reassure her that everything would be OK?

Say:

Instead of being filled with fear, Mary trusted God. We find her answer to God's request in Luke 1:35-38. We also get an update on the story of Elizabeth and Zechariah who we met last week.

Read:

'The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. God can do everything!" Mary said, "I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.'

(Luke 1:35-38 *ICB*)

Ask:

How do you think the news about Elizabeth and her baby gave Mary the confidence to trust in God?

Say:

Sometimes when we feel afraid about the future, it can help to look around at the lives of other people who believe in Jesus. We can see how God has answered their prayers and this can help us to trust him more ourselves.

God's faithfulness to Elizabeth helped Mary to trust God for the future.

Read:

'When it was time for Elizabeth to give birth, she had a boy. Her neighbours and relatives heard how good the Lord was to her, and they rejoiced. When the baby was eight days old, they came to circumcise him. They wanted to name him Zechariah because this was his father's name. But his mother said, "No! He will be named John." The people said to Elizabeth, "But no one in your family has this name!" Then they made signs to his father, "What would you like to name him?" Zechariah asked for something to write on. Then he wrote, "His name is John." Everyone was surprised. Then Zechariah could talk again. He began to praise God.'

(Luke 1:57-64 *ICB*)

Ask:

- What name was everyone expecting Elizabeth and Zechariah to give their baby boy?
- What did they do instead?



Say:

Sometimes God asks us to do things that others might not expect. He asks us to trust him as we do things differently. We don't need to be afraid, as he is with us and 'God can do everything'. (Luke 1:37 ICB)

Action it

Today's activity gives the children an opportunity to get creative. Remind the children of the angel's words to Mary: 'God can do everything!' (Luke 1:37 ICB). Give the children a selection of art materials and card. Ask them to create a Christmas card using this verse as their inspiration. Discuss with the children who they could send these cards to. Who needs to hear the message that God can do everything?

When the children have completed their cards, they can share them with the rest of the group and make a final decision on who they will send their card to.

Pray it

In the Action It section of the first session the children made the base for their Advent wreath and completed the first candle as part of the Pray It section. In today's session you will need to prepare the resources for the children to make their 'Peace' candle.

Say:

Our Advent prayer theme for this week is 'Peace'.

Ask:

What do you think of when you hear the word 'peace'?

Say:

This Christmas there are lots of places in the world that are experiencing conflict. Disagreements between countries lead to war and people try and show their power over others. This is not what God wants for our world. He wants peace between everyone.

Our Advent wreath for this week reminds us of the peace that Jesus can bring to our hearts. Peace starts with us. As you make your Advent candle for this week, think about the situations at home and at school where you could bring peace.

After the children have completed their candle, encourage them to share where they can bring peace to situations in their everyday lives. Explain to the children how they can ask God for guidance as they try and show his peace to their friends and family. An optional song of peace is provided to bring the session to a close.

Video

'Glory (Let There Be Peace)' Official Lyric Video by Matt Maher

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.



'Explore It!' is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaiew)

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Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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Encourage

In today's session you created a very special Christmas card. It reminded us that 'God can do everything' (Luke 1:37 *ICB*). Give the card to the special person you thought of during the session and say a short prayer for them each night this week before you go to sleep.



Share

In your Explore It Session this week you created a new candle for your Advent wreath representing the message of God's peace at Christmas. Add the candle to your wreath and then watch the following clip with loved ones at home.

Advent for Kids: PEACE (Week 2) - 5 Minute Family Devotional/Kids Bible Story (5:41) by Minno Bible Stories for Kids



Song for the week

Motions (Luke 2:10-11) by Saddleback Kids (2:28)



Memory verse

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LIVING OUT FAITH

Today's story is illustrated in this week's *Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic - filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more...and is now available to read online!

salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive.



Children & Youth