

Unit 2. Children of the Bible - NT

Lesson 2.1: Mary the Living Temple of God

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Bible Story:

Based on Luke 1:26–38; Luke 2:1–7; and tradition about Mary’s early life.

Activities:

**Implement based on available time. Detailed instructions and materials list are provided in the lesson.*

Activity 1: “Say Yes!” Movement Game

Activity 2: “Mary’s Quiet Heart” Coloring Page

Materials: Coloring page, crayons and markers

While coloring, play soft spiritual music or a hymn about Mary. Talk about how Mary kept her heart peaceful so she could listen to God.

Words of the Week:

տաճար - da-jar - temple

վարագոյր - var-a-kooyr - curtain

հրեշտակապետ - huh-res-da-ga-bed - archangel

Objective

Children will understand that Mary loved and trusted God completely, saying “yes” to His plan with a pure and faithful heart.

Moral Character Focus:

Knowledge: Children will learn that Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus because she loved Him and was full of faith.

Understanding: Children will recognize that God is pleased when we say “yes” to Him and trust Him, even when we don’t understand everything.

Application: Children will identify ways to say “yes” to God by being kind, obedient, prayerful, and thankful in everyday life.

Values: Children will develop a desire to love God with their whole heart, to trust Him always, and to let His love shine through them like Mary.

Memory Verse:

“I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be to me as you have said.”

— Luke 1:38

Lesson

Open with prayer:

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

Lesson Body: Mary the Living Temple of God

Long ago, in the quiet hills of Galilee, there lived a gentle girl named Mary. From the time she was very small, Mary loved to pray and sing songs to God. She would whisper prayers of love while helping her mother bake bread or fetch water from the well. Mary's heart was full of kindness, and she always wanted to do what was good and pleasing to God.

Mary lived in a small town called Nazareth. The houses there were simple, made of stone and clay. Most families had little gardens where they grew vegetables and herbs. Mary would help tend the garden, and as she worked, she would think about all the wonderful things God had created: the bright sun, the singing birds, the flowers that bloomed in spring.

Q: What are some things you like to thank God for when you see them in nature?

When Mary was just a little girl, her parents, Joachim and Anna, brought her to the great temple in Jerusalem. They had prayed for her for many years and had promised that if God gave them a child, they would give her back to Him. The journey to Jerusalem took several days. They walked along dusty roads, passing shepherds with their flocks and merchants traveling to distant cities.

When they arrived at the temple, Mary's eyes grew wide with wonder. The temple was the most beautiful building she had ever seen! Its walls were covered with gold that sparkled in the sunlight. Inside, the priests wore special robes and sang beautiful songs of praise. The air was filled with the sweet smell of incense, a special perfume that rose up like prayers to heaven.

Mary grew up in the temple, surrounded by prayer and worship. Every morning before the sun came up, she would wake and listen to the priests sing praises to God. She learned the ancient prayers that God's people had prayed for hundreds of years. Every evening, as the sun set and painted the sky orange and pink, she lifted her heart in quiet love to God.

Mary spent her days learning the Scriptures, the holy words that told of God's promises. She read about how God had made a covenant with His people, how He had rescued them from slavery in Egypt, and how He had promised to send a Savior one day. Mary wondered what this promised Savior would be like. Would He be a mighty king? A brave warrior? She didn't know, but she trusted that God would keep His promise.

Q: How do you think Mary felt growing up in the temple and learning about God's promises?

As Mary grew older, she learned to weave beautiful cloth and to embroider delicate patterns. She learned to make bread and to prepare meals. But most of all, she learned to listen, to listen for God's voice in the silence of her heart. One tradition says that Mary weaved the curtain of the temple, which years later would be ripped in two at Jesus's crucifixion (Matthew 27:51).

Mary's heart was pure and gentle, like a soft candle burning with love. She didn't seek praise or attention. She was humble and kind to everyone she met. She didn't know that God had chosen her for something far greater than she could imagine.

When Mary was old enough, she returned to Nazareth to live with her family. She was betrothed, promised in marriage, to a good man named Joseph, who was a carpenter. Joseph was kind and faithful to God, and he loved Mary very much.

One day, as Mary was praying in her room, something extraordinary happened. A bright light filled the space around her, not like the light of a lamp or the sun, but a holy, heavenly light that seemed to come from everywhere at once. Mary looked up and saw a beautiful archangel standing before her. His name was Gabriel, and he was a messenger from God.

“Rejoice, Mary!” Gabriel said with a voice like music. “The Lord is with you. You are blessed among women!”

Mary felt surprised and a little afraid. Why would an angel come to her? She was just a simple girl from a small town. What could this mean?

Q: *If an angel appeared to you with a message from God, how do you think you would feel and react?*

But the angel’s voice was kind and full of peace. He could see that Mary was troubled, so he spoke gently to comfort her.

“Do not be afraid, Mary,” Gabriel said. “You have found favor with God. Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: You will have a baby son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be very great! He will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His ancestor David, and He will reign over His people forever. His kingdom will never, ever end!”

Mary listened carefully. Her heart was beating fast. She tried to understand what the angel was saying. A baby? The Son of God? A kingdom that would last forever? This was the Savior God had promised! But how could this be?

“How can this happen?” Mary asked the angel. “I am not yet married.”

Gabriel answered with great gentleness: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. That is why the baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God. For nothing is impossible with God!”

Then Gabriel told her something else wonderful: her cousin Elizabeth, who was very old and had never been able to have children, was also going to have a baby! This would be a sign that God can do anything.

Mary stood very still. She thought about everything the angel had told her. She thought about the Scriptures she had learned, about the promises God had made long ago. She thought about how her life would change. People might not understand. They might ask questions. It would not be easy.

Q: *Why do you think it took courage for Mary to say yes to God? What might have been hard or scary about it?*

But Mary trusted God completely. She knew that He loved her and that His plans were always good. So she bowed her head humbly and said the most beautiful words, words that changed the world forever: “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be to me as you have said.”

In that moment, something miraculous happened. God’s Holy Spirit came upon Mary, and Jesus, the Son of God, began to grow within her. Mary became the living temple of God, not a temple made of stone and gold like the one in Jerusalem, but a holy dwelling filled with love. God Himself, who had created the stars and the mountains and the seas, chose to come to earth as a tiny baby in Mary’s womb.

Mary’s faith and her willingness to say “yes” to God brought the greatest gift the world has ever known.

Nine months later, Mary gave birth to baby Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem. She cared for Him with tender hands and a joyful heart. She wrapped Him in soft strips of cloth to keep Him warm and held Him close, knowing that this tiny baby was the Savior God had promised, the one who would save His people from their sins.

Wherever Mary went, she carried God’s love inside her, shining like light to everyone around her. She treasured everything that happened and thought about it deeply in her heart. She watched Jesus grow from a baby into a boy, and then into a man. She was there when He performed His first miracle, turning water into wine at a wedding. She was there at the foot of the cross when He gave His life to save us all. And she was there when the Holy Spirit came upon the early Church at Pentecost.

Q: *What can we learn from Mary about trusting God and saying yes to what He asks us to do?*

From that day when the angel came to her, the world would remember Mary as the one who said “yes” to God, with faith, humility, and complete love. She is our mother in faith, showing us how to trust God even when we don’t understand everything, and how to say “yes” to whatever God asks of us.

Words of the Week:

տաճար - da-jar - temple
վարագոյր - var-a-kooyr - curtain
հրեշտակապետ - huh-resh-da-ga-bed - archangel

Memory Verse:

“I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be to me as you have said.” — Luke 1:38

Bible Verse Game to Remember

***“I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be to me as you have said.”
— Luke 1:38***

“I am the Lord’s servant” — hands on heart

“Let it be to me” — open hands like receiving a gift

“as you have said” — point upward

Activity 1: “Say Yes!” Movement Game

Gather the children in an open space.

Explain: “When I call out a good action, shout ‘YES TO GOD!’ and do a fun motion. If it’s something bad, stay still and shake your head no.” Practice with one or two examples so they understand the rules.

Call out actions like: “Help your mom!” (YES TO GOD! - jump high), “Tell a lie!” (stay still, shake head), “Share with a friend!” (YES TO GOD! - clap three times), “Be mean!” (stay still, shake head), “Pray before meals!” (YES TO GOD! - spin around), “Ignore your parents!” (stay still, shake head). Continue with 8-10 more scenarios, using different motions like jumping, clapping, spinning, or spreading arms wide like angel wings.

After the game, ask the children: “Which good actions were your favorite? Can you think of one way you can say ‘yes’ to God this week?” Let a few children share their ideas and celebrate their responses.

Learning Point: “Just like Mary said ‘yes’ to God with courage and trust, we can say ‘yes’ every day by choosing to do good things. When we help others, pray, and show kindness, we’re saying ‘yes’ to God’s plan for us, just like Mary did!”

Activity 2: “Mary’s Quiet Heart” Coloring Page

Materials: Coloring page of Mary praying or holding baby Jesus.

While coloring, play soft spiritual music or a hymn about Mary.

Talk about how Mary kept her heart peaceful so she could listen to God.



Review

Memory Verse Review:

"I am the Lord's servant. Let it be to me as you have said." — Luke 1:38

Lesson Review:

1. *What kind of girl was Mary? (She was kind, prayerful, and loved God very much)*
2. *Who visited Mary with a message from God? (The archangel Gabriel)*
3. *What did the angel tell Mary? (That she would be the mother of Jesus, God's Son)*
4. *How did Mary answer the angel? (She said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be to me as you have said")*
5. *How can we be like Mary? (By saying "yes" to God, obeying, and showing love and faith every day)*

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Life Application:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Mary teaches us that saying "yes" to God brings joy and peace. When we choose to listen, pray, and obey, our hearts become like little temples where God can live. Just like Mary carried Jesus inside her, we can carry God's love inside our hearts every day; in our words, our kindness, and our prayers.

Close with prayer:

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.