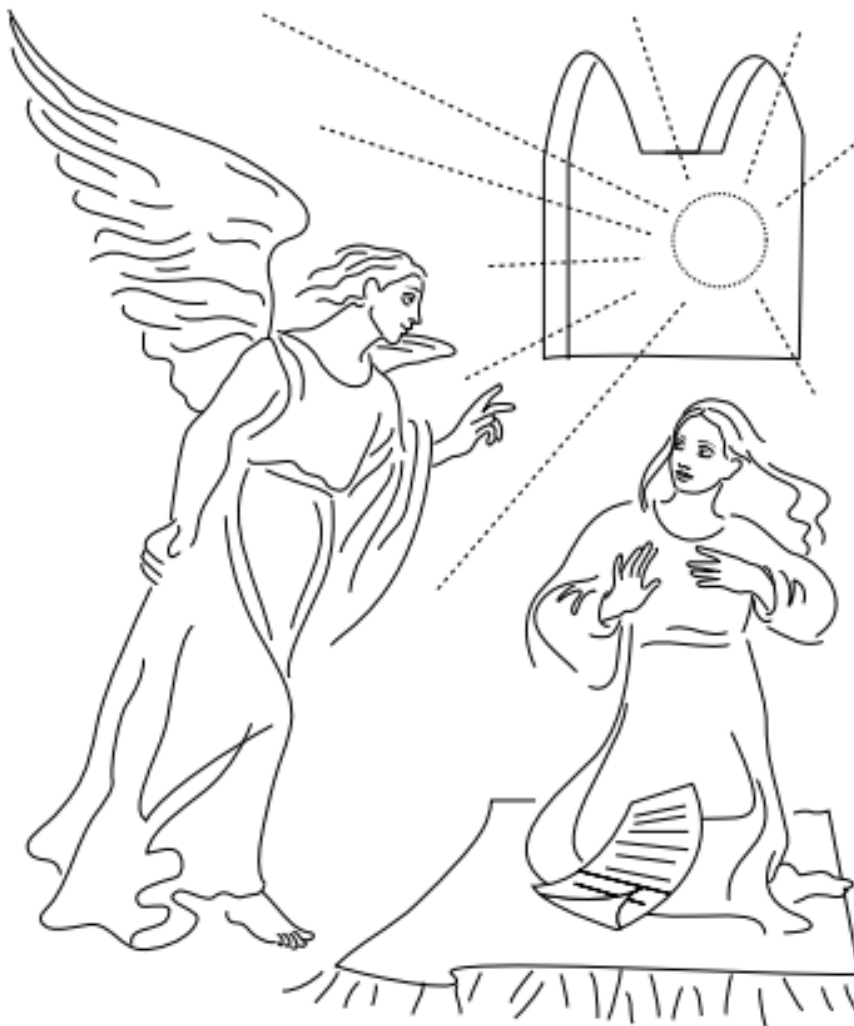


Getting ready for Christmas

A message for Mary



Angel Gabriel brings a message from God.

You can colour this picture.



From the Bible

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."

"How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. "I am a virgin."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That's because what God says will always come true."

"I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would." Then the angel left her.

Luke chapter 1 verses 26-38 (New International Reader's Version)

Ask the person who is looking after you today to let you watch this video on the computer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtuDSUmHiAO>

? To think about

Have you ever been asked to do something really difficult?

I wonder what helped Mary to do what God asked her to do?

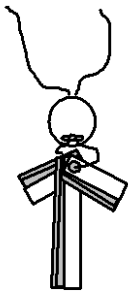
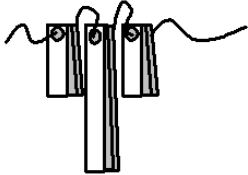
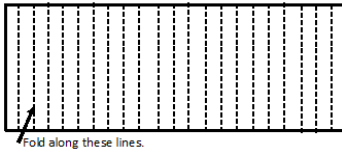
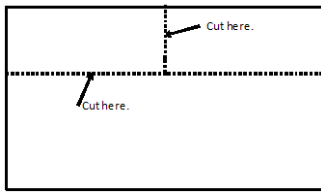


Craft Activity

Paper Angels

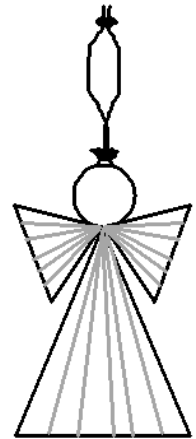
You will need:

- A piece of A4 paper
- Ribbon, wool or string
- A large bead
- Scissors
- Hole punch



Craft Activity

Cut the piece of paper along the long edge, about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way down. Now cut the thinner strip in half. Fold all three pieces in a concertina pattern, backwards and forwards. Using the hole punch to make a hole in the end of each of the concertina pieces. Thread the ribbon or wool through the holes, small piece first, large piece second, other small piece third. Thread both ends of the ribbon through the bead and tie in a large, tight knot. The bead will be the head. Spread out the wings and the angel's gown. Tie the ends of the ribbon together to make a loop so you can hang your angel up.



Christmas Cards

You will need:

- Thick paper or card
- Pens/pencil crayons

Optional

- Glue
- Decorative stickers, paper, glitter
- Scissors

Fold your paper or card in half and decorate the front to make a Christmassy picture. Perhaps you could send your card to someone who won't be able to get to church this Christmas.



Outdoor Activity Suggestions

Christmas pebbles

Find some small stones in the garden or when you're out for a walk and give them a good wash. Draw Christmas pictures on the pebbles. Next time you go out for a walk take your decorated pebbles with you and leave in different places for other people to find. It will make someone smile!



Building Challenge

Can you build a 3D map of the road Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem? What buildings or landmarks might they have passed on the way?

Song

O Little Town (The Glory of Christmas)

Ask the person who is looking after you today to let you sing along to this song on the computer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOCiuF291_o

And a more traditional version with Makaton signs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6zNkzjtEOY>



Prayer

Father God,

Thank you that Mary listened to your message.

Thank you for Joseph who looked after Mary and Jesus.

Help us to be brave like Mary and kind like Joseph.

Amen.

(Amen just means 'I agree' in the language that Jesus spoke.)

Puzzle

Can you discover the word? Put the letters in **BOLD** together to reveal the message.

Christmas

Guests

Promising

Peace

Arrive

In

Smallest

Place

Can you find 10 angels in the picture?

