

FAITH QUEST

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Regina

bible.bytes: Mary and Elizabeth

At a Glance

Children will examine Mary, Elizabeth, and Zechariah's stories using Bibleland.com, Fluffy and God's Amazing Christmas Adventure, Life of Christ, and/or Play and Learn Children's Bible.

Objectives:

- 1) Children will know the basic facts of either Mary, Elizabeth, or Zechariah's story.
- 2) Children can translate their knowledge of the story into a poster or other project that they can share with the children in their class.
- 3) Children can locate the gospel of Luke in their Bibles.

Software Summary

Play and Learn Children's Bible (pre-school, K, maybe 1st)

Stories God's Son An Angel Brings Good News

Click "yes" for read aloud feature

After each section is read, a movie camera will appear over parts that are animated. Click on these parts. Four pages, only about the story of Mary and the angel.

Game Room Music Songs Mary Had a Baby (Play button)

Game Room Puzzle Place last picture on 2nd row is of the Mary story

Bibland.com (2nd or 3rd grade and up)

If you go under People, Heroes or Heroines, you can find homepages for Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Zechariah, and John the Baptist. These pages require reading as there are only occasional pieces with read aloud features.

There are places where the children can click on Bible passages, but it is also helpful to give them Bibles for references with this story.

Fluffy and God's Amazing Christmas Adventure (all ages, with reading help for younger groups)

The suggested age range is 8-16 without help, but younger children, who have a reader/guide by their side will also get a kick out of much of this CD. The key is to turn on only as many computers as you have adult or youth helpers.

2 "Yo Joe and Mary!"

You will want them to "Go Visit Mary" and do the "Mary and Elizabeth Fluffymation" (which is the Magnificat re-written by the kids)

Life of Christ (2nd and up alone, K-1st with helper/reader)

After logging in, click on the crate in the back corner of the room.

☐ Beginnings to Baptism ☐ 6. An Angel Brings Good News (Luke 1:11-22)

Story: About Mary, Gabriel, Zechariah & Elizabeth.

Ending discussion question: Zechariah at first didn't believe what he had been told. Do you really believe that God will do all he promises?

Quiz Answers: 1) C 2) C 3) A 4) C 5) D 6) B

Children should expect to listen to the story again and retake the quiz if they get fewer than five answers correct.

Supplies:

Three sheets of posterboard – one each for Mary, Elizabeth, and Zechariah. (Because we are focusing on Luke, and Joseph's story is in Matthew, we are leaving him out.) with markers for coloring and writing.

Envelopes or cards with the three names Mary, Elizabeth, and Zechariah on them.

Notepads, pens, pencils for each computer.

Advance Preparation

Learn all four programs, specifically how to navigate, how to undo "jams"

Set up bible.bytes

Read the Bible story in Luke & background notes

Lesson

Opening Activity

Pray. Take attendance. Review with children what they already know about Mary and Elizabeth. In early weeks they will probably know more about Mary.

Explain to the children that they are going to be investigators today.

Explain that they are to learn all that they can about the person named in the envelope. Give them a notebook to make notes about their person.

Tell them that they also need to find the place in the Bible where this person's story is found.

Explain that they have 40 minutes (adjust time so that you have 10-15 minutes to make posters) and at the end of that time, they will get together with the other person/people researching their person and make a poster to teach others about the story.

Life Application

Have children make posters that include the person's name, a picture, where they are found in the Bible, and a summary of what you know about them. Share them at the end of the lesson time and clean up! Then pray...

Adjustments for age levels and abilities

For smaller groups, focus only on Mary and Elizabeth, since they're the main focus of the rotation. If there are lots of students, you can have children work together throughout the lesson, with one or more of them recording information as they find it.

Younger Learners : Focus on "Play and Learn" cd.

1. Have the children listen to the story as it is read aloud and allow them to click on the animations. Encourage them to listen to the story more than once.
2. Using one computer, listen to the song "Mary had a Baby" in the game room. Sing it along with the program. You can prompt them with the next verse as the lyrics appear on the screen.
3. In Puzzle Place, click on the picture of Mary and the rainbow. Put the pieces of the puzzle in the correct place.
4. Bring out puppets of Mary and the angel (stored in the back of Temple room) and have children retell the story to you and/or read them the story from "The Family Story Bible."

If you have time and they seem interested, you can play Fluffy. It is cute and while they may not understand everything, they will enjoy the cute little sheep wearing sunglasses and dressing up like an angel.

Life of Christ has less thrilling animations. If you want to go over the quiz with this group, read aloud only two choices – the right answer and the silliest answer – for them to choose between.

Based upon the maturity of the group (and who is showing up this week!!) you will need to decide if you want to have them do the Play & Learn cd only or a modified version of the regular lesson. Some hints:

- Bibleland.com will be too hard for K-1 and 2nd graders will probably need a reader prompting them, as well.
- Play and Learn will be too "babyish" for the 2nd graders, although encouraging them to read the story aloud themselves rather than the play aloud feature may help with this prejudice.
- The other programs should work for all ages provided you have a shepherd/helper reading with them.
- Only have as many computers turned on as you have adults to help. Have the adult ask the children what notes they want the adult to make. Then have the adult read the notes as the children are making their posters.

If you have extra time...
You can do a DC Fluffy Jam.

If time runs short...

Life of Christ focuses more on Zechariah and says little about Elizabeth. Elizabeth is better covered in the other two programs. (Mary is everywhere, but Bibleland.com is less fun) Steer the children toward the two program that will tell them the most about the person they are researching, so that if they don't have time to get to all three programs, they will still be able to complete their poster.

Be creative

Instead of a poster, what other kind of presentation could the children make to the rest of the class? A drama, diary page, etc.