

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Faith Quest

Divine Diversions: Mary and Elizabeth

At A Glance

Children will play games to sort out the similarities and differences in John and Jesus' birth, and between John and Jesus' mother.

Objectives

- 1) Children can recount the story of Mary and Elizabeth.
- 2) Children can find falsehoods in a made up version of the stories.
- 3) Children can connect the story to their own faith.

Supplies

Bible passage Luke 1:5 – 66 Memory verse is Luke 1:37 "For nothing will be impossible with God."

"Both-Either-Neither" game board and pieces

Handouts: False Statement, Mary and Elizabeth puzzle

Markers, pencils, pens, paints, glitter glue

Small wooden Christmas decorations: suggest star-shapes, nativity scenes (Michaels/dollar store)

Cards for "memory verse shuffle" game (see "extra time" below)

Leader/Shepherd Advance Preparation

Become familiar with the lesson especially the game.

Read the passage from Luke. Attend the study/planning meeting.

Opening:

Begin with prayer. Review the memory verse.

Play "Both-Either-Neither"(see below)

Test your answers by reading together the story in your Bibles. How did you do? Congratulations if you did well – you really know the facts!

Read the story from Luke again then continue with the lesson.

Lesson continues...

Play "False Statement" (see below) Each child should have a copy.

Read the false statements aloud, or have the children pair up and read them together. Highlight or underline anything that is incorrect or false and write in the correct answers.

Test your answers by comparing them against the text in your Bibles.

Life Application

What do the stories of Mary and Elizabeth say about faith? What can these two women teach us about faith? How deep is your faith?

Give another example of a person of faith from a) the Bible and b) someone you know who is alive today.

Tell everyone what persons a) & b) did which showed that they believed God and his promises.

Journals

Who would you rather have lunch with, Mary or Elizabeth, and why. What questions would you ask and what do you think she would answer.

Decorations: Hand out small wooden Christmas decorations and have the children begin to colour them with paints or markers/glitter glue etc. Children can also add the memory verse if they like

They can take these home as a "prize" and a reminder of the part Mary & Elizabeth play in the salvation story.

If you have extra time...

Play “Memory verse shuffle” – write each word of the memory verse on a separate set of cards. Have teams try and order the cards, shouting out “Magnificat!” when they think they have finished. Check their order and correct if necessary.

Both – Either – Neither

Have four categories – Both, Mary, Elizabeth, Neither posted on the wall.
Make up large cards with these statements on them. Shuffle, and have kids pick them one at a time and place in the appropriate category.

Both

She had a cousin who was pregnant at the same time.
Her pregnancy was a miracle.
Her child was important
An angel picked the baby’s name
She prayed to God
She had faith in God’s miracles
Her son died a violent death

Mary

She saw an angel.
She went to visit her cousin
Her child was conceived by the Holy Sprit
She named her child Jesus
She was unmarried
Her child was the Savior of the world

Elizabeth

She was married.
She was old.
She named her child John
She hid her pregnancy for five months
She lived in Jerusalem
The child leaped in her womb.

Neither

She had a baby girl
She was a wicked person
She doubted what the angel said
She lived in Bethlehem
She was brought before the judges for being pregnant
She died in childbirth

NOTE

The idea for this activity was found on this website -- but I can't remember exactly where. The words have been changed. Let me know if this was your idea, and I'll give you credit. Lisa

FALSE STATEMENT – Puzzle #1 Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

In the days of King George of America, there was a priest named Zebediah. His wife was named Elizabeth. Both of them were real stinkers before God and disobeyed all the commandments of the Lord. They had twelve daughters but no sons, because Elizabeth was bad luck, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he snuck in and entered the

sanctuary of the Lord and offered a lamb. Now at the time of the lamb offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an enormous red dragon, standing at the right side of the altar. When Zebediah saw him, he laughed hysterically; and joy overwhelmed him. But the dragon said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zebediah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him Jesus. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink milk or apple juice; even before his birth he will be filled with green goop. He will turn many of the people of Israel to destruction and the devil. With the spirit and power of Moses he will go before him, to turn the feet of parents to their children, and the politicians to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a circus prepared for a big party." Zebedee said to the dragon, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The dragon replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not do jumping jacks, you will become mute, unable to see, until the day these things occur." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zedekiah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not see them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to see. When his time of service was ended, he went to Bethlehem. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked angrily on me and took away the good china."

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a daughter. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Joachim after his grandfather. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called Jesus." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is Jesus." And all of them were amazed. Immediately he could see again, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of America. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

FALSE STATEMENT – Puzzle #2 Luke 1:26-38

In the second month the angel Gideon was sent by God to a town in Pennsylvania called Pottstown, to an old woman engaged to a man whose name was Peter, of the house of David. The old woman's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, my little potato! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of godsend this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a puppy, and you will name him Jesus. He will love mashed potatoes, and will be called the Puppy of the Potato King, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Kibble forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am an old woman?" The angel said to her, "Green goop will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the puppy to be born will be holy; he will be called Puppy of God. And now, your relative, Elizabeth, a virgin, has also conceived a puppy; and this is the second month for her who was said to be barren. For everything will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the pancake flipper of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

FALSE STATEMENT—Puzzle #3 Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Jewish town in the low country, where she entered the house of Zachariah and greeted Esther. When Esther heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in his crib. And Esther was filled with the Holy Spirit and said in a whisper, "Unhappy are you among women, and cursed is the fruit of the loom. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in the crib leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul is angry with the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked into my diary. Surely, from now on I can watch late night TV; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from time to time. He has shown strength with his legs; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their toes. He has brought down the powerful from their ladders, and lifted up the puppies; he has filled the refrigerator with good things, and sent the rich to the bank for

more money. He has helped his country Canada, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to my best friend, Peter, to Joshua and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three minutes and then returned to the grocery store.