

## **ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

### **Faith Quest**

#### **Pray-per-View/Storytelling** Mary and Elizabeth

#### **At A Glance**

Children will watch the opening scenes of *Jesus of Nazareth*, which includes the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth. They will hear the story of "Mary's Treasure Box" and take home their own keepsake box.

#### **Objectives**

- 1) Children can recount the basic story line of the expected births of Jesus and John.
- 2) Children understand the story from Mary's perspective.
- 3) Children can recount the story using their own treasure box.

#### **Movie Summary**

*Jesus of Nazareth* – begin with scene 3 and continue through scene 8 (DVD version), which ends with Elizabeth telling Mary to go tell Joseph about the baby. About 20 minutes total.

As with many movies, there are a lot of creative additions to the Biblical text. It is interesting that the angel's voice is not heard, only Mary's response. Mary's mother being present is not Biblical, but very realistic to imagine in a home where everyone sleeps in the same room.

Culturally, a lot of the details are right on, particularly the relationship between men and women. The women aren't allowed in the synagogue, but listen from the fringes. Anne, as a woman, feels she must apologize for speaking to a man, Elizabeth's courtyard is all women. The movie also does a good job with costuming. Women do cover their hair completely in public. The clothes are neither beautifully pristine and bright, nor ragged, dirty and shabby-looking. They look like the well-kept clothes of modest people who work hard. On the other hand, Joseph's comment to his apprentices that only men who work with their hands are truly free, is elevating Joseph's station above reality. The scene with Herod is not in scripture, but provides a useful discussion about Messiah – although it seems to omit the fact that Herod was also a Jew.

**Scripture passage : Luke 1: 5 – 66 Memory verse: Luke 1:37 "For nothing is impossible with God."**

#### **Supplies**

DVD disc 1 of *Jesus of Nazareth* or Video version cued to same spot as DVD scene 3

Popcorn

- Book: *Mary's Treasure Box* (RPL copy)
- Wooden box for storytelling plus one per child
- Items to go in the box: bit of straw, wool, wooden flute, small white cloth, small gold bracelet, frankincense, myrrh

#### **Advance Preparation for Leader & Shepherd**

Preview the movie so you know where to start and end.

**Opening:** Pray and review the memory verse.

Review what they have learned already about Mary and Elizabeth.

#### **Lesson:**

**Movie:** Watch the selected scenes from *Jesus of Nazareth* and discuss what they saw.

Read a section (of your choosing) of the story from the Bible together as a class.

Ask:

How was the movie the same? How was it different?

What did the movie add that wasn't in the Bible? What did the movie leave out?

How would you have portrayed that scene if you were making the movie?

**Story:** Ask the children if they have ever kept items in a box from when they were little. What did they put in their boxes? How do the items help them remember?

Activity:

1. Tell the children that they will be reading a fictional story titled “Mary’s Treasure Box”. Ask the children what fiction means.
2. Ask the children what sort of items they would have put in a keepsake box if they were Mary. What would the items help them remember?
3. Show the children the wooden box. Tell them that you will pass around the items in the box as they are talked about in the story.
4. Read Mary’s Treasure Box. Pass around each item as it is talked about in the story. Let the children ask questions about the items or the lesson learned from them. Reading the books with these pauses will let the children engage with the book in a variety of senses.
5. Have each child assemble their own treasure box so that they can remember “and store up all these things in [their] heart.”

Journal Question:

- If you were Mary, what would treasure and want to remember?

Then **close** with prayer.