

## **GOD BECOMES A MAN (about A. D. 1 in Israel)**

### **Mary's Story – Luke 1:26-38**

26 Creator God sent the angel Gabriel to talk to a virgin. 27 The virgin's name was Mary. Mary was engaged to Joseph.

28 The angel said to her, "Hello. God is happy with you! And God is with you." 29 Mary was very worried. She thought: What does the angel mean? – Why is the angel talking to me? 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is happy with you.

31 "You will become pregnant, and you will have a son. You must name him Jesus. 32 He will be very great. People will call him: the Son of the Most High God. God will make Jesus king. 33 He will be king over Israel – Jesus' kingdom will never end."

34 "I am a virgin," Mary said. "How is this possible?" 35 The angel answered Mary, "God's Holy Spirit will do this – God's power will do this. So your son will be called God's Son. 37 Nothing is impossible with God – God can do anything!"

38 Mary answered, "I am God's servant. God may do this to me."

### **Joseph's Story – Matthew 1:18-25**

18 How was Jesus Christ born? Jesus' mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph. Mary and Joseph were not married – and they did not sleep together. But Mary became pregnant by God's Holy Spirit. And Joseph found out: Mary is pregnant! 19 So Joseph decided: I will break up with Mary. But Joseph was a good man – so Joseph did not want people to shame Mary. So Joseph decided to break up with Mary quietly.

20 Then God's angel spoke to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to make Mary your wife. The baby inside Mary is from God's Holy Spirit. 21 She will have a son. You must name him Jesus – because Jesus will save his people from their sins." ["Jesus" means: "God saves."]

22 Why did this happen? Because God said about 700 years before in the Old Testament, 23 "The virgin will become pregnant. She will have a son. People will call him Emmanuel." Emmanuel means: "God is with us."

24 Joseph woke up. Then Joseph did what God's angel said. Joseph took Mary home – and Mary became his wife. 25 But Joseph did not sleep with Mary – he waited until her son was born – so Mary was still a virgin when Jesus was born. And Joseph named the baby, Jesus.

**CONTENT QUESTIONS:****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- When did this story happen?
- Where did it happen?

**About Mary:**

- What exciting thing was Mary planning to do soon? (verse 27)
- Who was Mary engaged to? (verse 27)
- Who came to Mary? Who talked to Mary? (verse 26)
- Where did the angel come from? (verse 26)
- How did Mary feel when the angel talked to her? (verse 29)

If an angel suddenly came to you, how would you feel?

- What did the angel say to Mary? (verse 31)
- What was the baby's name? (verse 31)
- Whose son was Jesus? Who was Jesus' father. (verse 32 & 35)
- What will Jesus become? And how long will Jesus' kingdom last? (verses 32-33)
- What did Mary ask? (verse 34)
- Why did she ask it? (verse 34)
- What did the angel answer? (verse 35)
- What can God do? (verse 37)
- Did Mary do what God wanted her to do? (verse 38)

What do servants do?

Do you think this was easy for Mary?

What could Mary lose?

Do you think she was worried about Joseph? What would he say?

Do you think she was worried about her family?

Mary lived in a small town?

Do you think she was worried about her neighbors?

Who was #1 for Mary?

God or Joseph? Or her family? Or her neighbors?

## About Joseph:

- What was Joseph and Mary's relationship? (verse 18)
- What surprising thing did Joseph learn about Mary? (verse 18)

How did Joseph feel? What do you think?

What did Joseph think that Mary had done?

- So what did Joseph decide to do? (verse 19)
  - Was Joseph kind? How was he kind? (verse 19)
- What did the angel tell Joseph? (verses 20-21)
- Why was Mary pregnant? (end of verse 20)
- What does Jesus' name mean? (verse 21)

Does your name have a meaning?

What do the Japanese characters mean?

Why is Jesus' name important?

- What did the Old Testament say about Mary and Jesus (in about 700 B.C.)? (verse 22)

Who knows the future?

Who knows what will happen next year?

- Jesus was God in heaven. Why did Jesus become a human being?

1. (verse 21)

What is sin?

(Bad thoughts, bad words, bad actions –  
and not obeying God.)

2. (verse 23)

- When Joseph woke up, what did he do? (verse 24)

How do you think Joseph felt?

Do you think this was easy for Joseph?

What would the neighbors think?

- How did Joseph follow what God said (verse 23) in the Old Testament? (verse 25)

What is interesting about this story?

What surprises you?