

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 30 November 08
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Christmas Traditions / The Promise
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Luke 1:26-56
- **CONCEPT:** God always keeps His promises

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that Jesus was promised by God long before His birth.
- To challenge kids to be ready, like Mary, to accept the job God has for them.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Teabag
- ✓ Packet of cake mix
- ✓ Bottle of bath foam
- ✓ Large print Bible
- ✓ Angel graphic
- ✓ Angel cake, sliced (with Christmas angel serviettes if you like)
- ✓ Treasure chest
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>A. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together (<i>This is the Day / Supernatural</i>). 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to lift a mat each and sit down. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p>
<p>B. Message 15 minutes</p> <p>1. Set the scene Who knows what a promise is? <i>Allow kids to answer.</i> A promise is when someone tells you they will do something for sure, for certain.</p> <p>For example, <i>name of tea company</i> promises that if you put this teabag (<i>show kids a teabag</i>) into a cup and pour hot water onto it, stir it, take the teabag out, then add a little milk, you will have a lovely cup of tea.</p> <p><i>Name of cake mix producer</i> promises that if you follow the instructions on this packet (<i>show kids a packet of cake mix</i>) – add milk, mix together, pour into a tin, bake in the oven – you will end up with a delicious cake!</p> <p>And, <i>name of bath foam brand</i> promises that if you pour this (<i>show kids a bottle of bath foam</i>) under a running tap of hot water into your bath, climb in and sit down, you will have a very relaxing bath time!</p> <p>Do you believe these promises? Well, sometimes people don't keep their promises, right? Sometimes they break their promises. But God <i>always</i> keeps His promises. Today, we're going to read about one of God's great promises.</p> <p>2. Tell the story About 700 years before Jesus was born, God made a promise to His people. He told them that He would send someone to help and save them. Isaiah, a man of God, wrote in his book that God would send someone from Jesse's family tree. <i>Sit amongst the kids and let them see you turn to and read Isaiah 11:1.</i></p> <p>A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.</p> <p>Do you remember who Jesse was? He was David's daddy. Away back when we heard the story of how Samuel told David he would be king, God said that David's family would rule forever! And here, Isaiah says that someone from David's daddy's family tree will come to Earth. If we read Matthew's story in chapter 1, we see that what Isaiah wrote was true! <i>Turn to Matthew 1 and read the following:</i></p> <p>A record of the family tree of Jesus Christ, the son of David ... Abraham was the father of Isaac ... Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David ... David was the father of Solomon ... Jacob the father of</p>	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Teabag</i></p> <p><i>Packet of cake mix</i></p> <p><i>Bottle of bath foam</i></p> <p><i>Large print Bible</i></p>

Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Jesus' great, great, great, etc. grandfather was David!
Some years later, Micah, another man of God, wrote about Jesus and where He would be born. Let's read it. *Turn to Micah 5:2 and read aloud.*

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

And what happened? Did this come true? Yes! We know that baby Jesus was born in a little town called Bethlehem.

* * *

Mary was a young lady who loved God very much. She lived in a town called Nazareth. She wasn't married yet, but she was engaged to a man called Joseph (and we know now that he came from the family tree of David who lived hundreds of years earlier).

One day, Mary was working at home. When she looked up, she saw an angel! *Show angel on screen.* How do you think Mary felt when she saw this angel? *Allow kids to answer.* Now, kids, we know from our previous stories that when an angel appears, there is usually a message to be heard, right? Well, God had sent this angel to give Mary a message. This angel was called Gabriel. Gabriel said, "Hello, Mary. God is very pleased with you. He loves you and He is with you."

Angel graphic

Mary started to shake! She was shocked and really worried at what this angel wanted with her. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God knows that you love Him very much and He is going to do something special in your life. God wants you to be the mummy of a baby boy. You are to call the baby, Jesus. This baby boy, Jesus, will be God's Son."

Mary could hardly believe what the angel of God was telling her! She was going to be the mummy of God's own Son! Even though she was nervous and didn't really understand everything, Mary trusted God and accepted the job He had given her of being a mummy to Jesus. She was happy and excited that she was going to have a new baby to look after, and she sang a song of praise to God.

I brought some angel cake with me today. Angel cake to remind us of the first part of the Christmas story, when God's angel, Gabriel, brought the special message to Mary that she was going to have a baby boy called Jesus. Everyone can take a piece of angel cake before you leave to go home today. Right now, I'm going to put some of it into our treasure chest and we will test our memories next week!

Angel cake

Treasure chest

3. Explain

Boys and girls, Mary and Joseph had to be very brave and trust God to help them while baby Jesus was growing inside his mummy, Mary. In those days, it was very dangerous for a girl to be pregnant without being married – so dangerous, in fact, that she might have been thrown into prison or even killed! Can you believe it? The law was very different in those times. Mary believed that God would help her and look after her because He had given her this special job to do – being a mummy to Jesus.

God has special jobs for us to do too. He wants us to be good kids at home and at school. He wants us to work hard. He wants us to be kind and treat people well. Most of all, God wants us to trust Him and live for Him each day of our lives. You see, God sent Jesus as a baby at Christmas, and when Jesus grew up *He* had a special job to do for God, His Father. Jesus allowed Himself to be captured and badly treated and killed on the cross – all because He loved us, and He wanted to make a way for all the people of the world to be saved. God's promise to you is this – if you are sorry for the bad things you have done, if you believe that Jesus died to save you, if you trust God to be with you and guide you, and if you promise to live your life for Jesus ... then God promises to save you and He will have a place waiting for you in heaven. What a great promise! And remember, God *always* keeps His promises!

C. Prayer Net

10 minutes

1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we *pray* – We talk to God and He listens.
2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him.
3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week (two weeks ago if you did not use the prayer net at last week's family service). Ask the kids for updates on those situations.
4. Explain that when we have worries or things to be thankful for, like Mary, we need to tell God about those things.
5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations.
6. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net.
7. Finish by leading a prayer for the whole group.

You'll need ...

*Net (with last week's prayer cards)
Small cards / postcards
A pen*

D. Conclusion (with puppets)

5 minutes

1. Challenge kids to remember to be like Mary – ready to do the job God has for you, patient enough to wait for God's timing, and happy to praise Him.
2. Remind kids to come back this evening.
3. Sing a closing song. (***This is the Day***)

You'll need ...

*DVD player / projector
Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)*

4. Offer kids a piece of angel cake – to remember the first part of the Christmas story, when the angel, Gabriel, brought God's special message to Mary.	<i>Angel cake</i>
5. Ask kids to put their mats away and put their name tags in the box before they leave.	<i>Name tag box</i>

THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 30 November 08
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story and concept by making a joint craft project – a Jesse Tree.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Task:
 - Slide (Luke 1:37)
 - Memory verse instruction cards – a few cards with a different instruction on each as to how kids should recite the verse, e.g. fast forward while jogging on the spot; in a whisper while tiptoeing on the spot, etc.
- ✓ Activity: Tables
 - Jesse Branch (This could be a small artificial tree, a real tree branch, or even a Christmas garland decoration – have it 'planted' in a pot or suspended from the wall or ceiling of your room, ready to be decorated. See photos below.)
 - Pre-made star – to demonstrate activity (See photos below)
 - 2 card triangles for each child (one with a hole punched in one point for hanging on the Branch)
 - Glue sticks
 - Pens
 - Chenille stems / pipe cleaners (one for each star)
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>E. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together. (<i>I Am Not Forgotten / Everyday</i>) 3. Open in prayer. 4. Kids should remain standing for the following activity. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p>
<p>F. Memory Verse (with puppets) 10 minutes <i>"For nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask a few questions to recap this morning's story: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who was the young lady we heard about today? <i>Mary</i> - What was the name of the angel God sent to talk to Mary? <i>Gabriel</i> - What message did Gabriel give to Mary? <i>She would have a baby and He would be the Son of God</i> 2. <i>Explain:</i> Mary was surprised and a bit worried when the angel told her that she was going to have a baby. Remember, in those days, she could have gotten into a lot of trouble with the law for being pregnant before she was married. But Mary trusted God to help her and keep her safe because she knew that God was in control and that He had a plan for her life. 3. <i>Explain:</i> Sometimes, boys and girls, we find ourselves in situations that we just can't believe are happening. Have you ever said things like this to yourself? – How will this ever work? I can't believe this is happening to me! How am I going to fix this? What am I going to do? ... You know, even when we think nothing is going to work, we have HOPE – remember we lit the candle of hope today in church (the first candle in the Advent crown) – because God ALWAYS keeps His promises and He can do supernatural things to make His plans come true. That's what our memory verse says today. 4. When the angel, Gabriel, was talking to Mary, he told her not to be afraid or worried, "For nothing is impossible with God." <i>Show verse on screen.</i> Let's say the verse together. 5. Repeat the verse together a few times until kids have grasped it. 6. <i>Remove verse from the screen.</i> Ask a few kids to say the verse individually from memory. 7. Show kids your instruction cards. Ask a child to choose a card, read aloud what instruction it gives, and have the child say the memory verse according to the instruction they have just read. 8. Repeat step 7 with different children until your cards are finished. 9. Finish with a group repetition of the verse. <p>Idea: After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it in later sessions of this series.</p>	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Memory verse slide (Luke 1:37)</i></p> <p><i>Memory verse instruction cards</i></p>

