

FAITH – MARY AND THE ANGEL

Objective

The children learn that God expects faith of those to whom he makes promises.

Contents

- The selection of Mary and Zacharias.
- The promise to Mary and Zacharias.
- We are selected by God.
- We believe in God's promises.



Lesson Plan

Lead-In

Discussion

The children look at the theme picture and describe it. They think about which biblical event this picture is depicting.

- An angel comes to Mary and announces Jesus' birth.

Question Prompt

How would you react if an angel were to enter at this moment?

- I would be frightened.
- I would ask myself, "What is going to happen to me now?"

Implementation

Workbook, Exercise 1

After roles have been allocated, the children read the text.

Discussion

Bring out the following main emphases:

- Mary was selected by God to bring the son of the Highest into the world.
- When the angel Gabriel conveyed this promise to her, she first asked, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?"
- Although this promise was contrary to human experience, Mary believed the angel and said, "Be it unto me according to thy word."

Teacher's Presentation

A few months earlier the angel Gabriel had announced the birth of a child to a priest named Zacharias.

Workbook, Exercise 2

The children work on exercise 2.

Discussion

After that, discuss the picture story with the children. The following points are to be brought out especially:

- God also selected Zacharias to receive a promise.
- Although Zacharias was to experience that his prayer had been answered, he did not believe the angel at first because his announcement contradicted human experience.

Statement Prompt

■ Zacharias became a mute because he did not believe.

■ Eight days after its birth, the child was given the name John as decreed by God. Shortly thereafter Zacharias was able to speak again. The special events surrounding John's birth were talked about throughout the hill region of Judaea. All who heard about this special sign, took it to heart.

God had selected Mary and Zacharias as tools for a special task. We have already become acquainted with such selections. For example,

■ Noah built the ark.

■ Moses led the people of Israel to the land of Canaan.

■ The prophets delivered certain messages from God.

■ etc.

Statement Prompt

We too are selected for special tasks.

God expects us to

■ tell the people about God's work, and

■ act as children of God in our daily life because we have been selected to be part of the royal priesthood.

One of the children reads

Bible

1 Peter 2:9:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

Discussion

Emphasize the following again:

■ The angel predicted significant events to Mary and Zacharias regarding God's plan of salvation for man.

■ What the angel promised, fulfilled itself, despite the fact that it contradicted human experience.

■ It was necessary to believe the given promises.

Statement Prompt

We too have received a promise.

- To us applies the promise that Jesus will come again to take us to him.
- This promise cannot be grasped by the human intellect.
- It will be fulfilled!

Conclusion

We want to prove ourselves worthy of our selection and the promise which has been given to us. What does this mean?

- We believe wholeheartedly that God has selected us and that Jesus has promised to return.
- We want to be taken by the Lord on the day of Christ's return and look forward to this day.
- We want to be thankful that God has included us in his plan of salvation.

Notes

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