



## Future-proofing our children

Religious Instruction Class 1

Lesson Title	Faith – Mary and the angel
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**A Parent's Guide**  
Sunday School Home Schooling



# Dear Parent

Welcome to the “**Faith – Mary and the angel**” Religious Instruction 1 lesson.

This document provides you with a minimum guide on how to present the lesson.

## How to prepare and present the lesson

Below are some tips on how to go about preparing and presenting the lesson:

Step	Action
1.	<p>Access the New Apostolic Church Website by keying-in or clicking on the following link from WhatsApp:</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3NACSSHS">https://bit.ly/3NACSSHS</a></p>
2.	<p>Gather the following tools to ensure that you are ready for the lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible</li> <li>• The PDF lesson that is already prepared</li> <li>• Child’s workbook and pencils, crayons, etc.</li> <li>• The Video Clip which is an additional optional resource tool</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <p>2.1: An ideal time preferably to present the lesson is after the Sunday morning service in line with the normal Sunday School time to maintain the routine.</p> <p>2.2: Please keep the lesson as concise as possible, bearing in mind the retention span (to focus on the lesson) of our children – you know your child best. <i>Sunday School normally does not exceed 45 minutes.</i></p> <p>2.3: The lessons are class specific (i.e. SS, RI, or Confirmation).</p> <p>2.4: Please contact your SS teacher if you need any of the above resources.</p>
3.	<p>Pray (see the prayer at the end of this document) and ask God to use you as a tool to present the lesson the way He would want us to present it.</p>



# Present a Sunday School Lesson at Home

## How to prepare and present the lesson

We continue to share some tips on how to go about preparing and presenting the lesson:

Step	Action
4.	Create a pleasant (disturbance free) learning environment where you and the children are at the same level <b>Example:</b> Sit on the mat or at a table
5.	Read through the lesson. Re-read the lesson so that you understand it. Watch the video clip of the lesson to get a better understanding of the lesson.
6.	Make notes for yourself on important points that you would like to remember.
7.	Understand the objective of the lesson that your child must remember.
8.	Present the lesson to your child by telling the story. You can even read the story if you like.
9.	Show your child the video and recap on the meaning/purpose of the lesson.
10.	Refer your child to the activity in the child's workbook.
11.	Pray, or ask your child to pray and close the lesson.

## Available tools in terms of Home Schooling

Herewith some tools to enhance the quality of the lesson:

1. WhatsApp chat the lesson with another Religious Instruction family.
2. Discuss with other parents to obtain clarity regarding the lesson before it is presented.
3. Feel free to conduct your own research for additional information.
4. Your congregation's Sunday School Coordinator and Teacher is on stand-by to help.



# The Lesson

<b>Lesson Title</b>	Faith – Mary and the angel
<b>Text</b>	Luke 1: 5 - 38 and 1 Peter 2: 9
<b>Lesson Objective</b>	The children learn that God expects faith of those to whom He makes promises. Our faith should be solid as a rock.

## Lesson Summary:

- Mary lived in the town of Nazareth and was engaged to Joseph.
- An angel, named Gabriel appeared to her and said: “Rejoice, highly favoured one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women! Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, the Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”
- Although Mary was frightened, she believed the angel and said; “Let it happen to me according to your word”.
- A few months earlier something similar happened to a priest named Zacharias.
- Zacharias and his wife, Elizabeth, was old and had been married for a very long time, but had no children.
- One day, while Zacharias was in the temple, angel Gabriel appeared to him and said: “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son.”
- Unlike Mary, Zacharias did not believe the angel because it was against human nature to have a child in an old age.
- The angel said to Zacharias, “Until the child is born you will be a mute because you did not believe my words.”
- As the angel had said, Elizabeth gave birth to a boy and as it was customary, when he was circumcised, relatives and friends assumed he would be called Zacharias, like his father.
- Elizabeth, however, said that he was to be named John, as instructed by the angel.
- Zacharias was asked about this, so he wrote on a board: “His name is John.”  
Luke 1: 63



- From that moment on, Zacharias was able to speak again and praised God.
- God selected Mary and Zacharias as tools for a special task to fulfil His will. Remember, others selected by God to fulfil His will were:
  - Ø Noah to build the ark,
  - Ø Moses to lead the people of Israel to the land of Canaan and
  - Ø The prophets to deliver certain messages from God.
- Read 1 Peter 2: 9. We are also selected for special tasks. God expects us to:
  - Ø tell people about Jesus and His work and
  - Ø act as children of God in our daily life, because we have been called to His royal priesthood (believers).
- We too, have received a promise that is beyond human understanding. The promise that Jesus will return to come and take us to Him. It will be fulfilled.

## What does this lesson teach us?

- The angel predicted significant events to Mary and Zacharias regarding God's salvation plan for us.
- The angel's promise was fulfilled, even though it contradicted human experience, and it was necessary to believe the given promise.
- We wholeheartedly believe that God has selected us and that Jesus has promised to return to fetch us.
- We want to be taken on the day Christ returns and are looking forward to it.
- We are thankful that God included us in His plan of salvation.

**Always believe and trust in God's promises. Even with just a little faith in God you can do big things, just believe.**

**Do Exercise 1 and 2 with your child/ren.**



## Some questions we can ask:

1. How did Mary react when the angel gave her the news?

**Answer:** She was frightened, however she believed and had faith.

2. How did Zacharias react when the angel gave him the good news?

**Answer:** He was also frightened, but although his prayers were answered he did not believe the angel.

3. What are the special tasks God is expecting us to do?

**Answer:** We must tell people of God's work and act as children of God in our daily lives because we are part of God's family.

4. What promise was made to us?

**Answer:** That Jesus will come again to fetch us to be with Him

5. What must we do to prove ourselves worthy of our selection and the promise given to us?

**Answer:** We must completely believe that God has selected us and that Jesus will return. We want to be taken on the day Christ returns and look forward to this. We are thankful that God included us in His salvation plan.

## A Prayer for Daddy and Mommy to pray before the lesson:

*Dear God, thank you for this day, Bless all parents and children*

*May we feel your presence, Bless the lesson we will have*

*Please teach us how to serve you, And help us to do your will*

*So that we grow closer to you, Send Jesus to fetch us*

*And may we be ready to meet Him - Amen*

## A prayer after the lesson:

*Dear Heavenly father*

*Thank you for keeping us safe.*

*Help us to be kind to everyone.*

*Thank you for teaching us to have faith in your promise*

*Thank you for being the Good Shepherd who loves and guides us.*

*Amen*