

POINT WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.

Teach kids the following motions that will go along with today's Bible passage: Angel—make a halo over your head with your hands; Mary—rub your belly; Baby—cradle a pretend baby.


Open your Bible to Luke 1, and show children the words. SAY: **As I read what the Bible says about today's Mighty Mini, listen for the words *angel*, *Mary*, and *baby*. When you hear those words, do the motions!**

One day a woman named *Mary* (pause) was at her home. All of a sudden, *Mary* (pause) was surprised—there was an *angel* (pause) standing in front of her!

***Mary* (pause) felt a little scared, but the *angel* (pause) said, "Don't be scared, *Mary* (pause)! Because God thinks you're so special, you're going to have a special *baby* (pause). This *baby* (pause) will be named Jesus, and he'll be God's Son."**

***Mary* (pause) was confused. She didn't know how she was going**


to have a *baby* (pause)! The *angel* (pause) told her that God would give her this special *baby* (pause), God's Son, because nothing is impossible with God. *Mary* (pause) was happy that she was going to have a *baby* (pause). She said to the *angel* (pause), "I will do whatever God wants." Then the *angel* (pause) left *Mary's* (pause) house.

Mary* (pause) was happy about what the *angel* (pause) had said. She sang a song to thank God for giving her a *baby* (pause), who would be God's Son. Just like *Mary* (pause),  **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.*

ASK: Tell about good news and how you celebrated it.

What part of *Mary's* (pause) experience makes you want to celebrate?

What do you do to celebrate Christmas?

SAY: The *angel's* (pause) news to *Mary* (pause) didn't seem like good news at first. She didn't know what to think! But it turned out to be some of the best news ever. God was sending Jesus to earth to be our Savior! That's why  **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH. It's great news!**



POINT ➔ **WE
CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.**

SAY: ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.** Just as Mary sang a song to celebrate Jesus' birth, we can, too! Let's stand up and sing this song about baby Jesus.

Play 🎵 "Mary's Boy Child" (track 7) on the CD. Lead the children in singing this song and pretending to rock a baby to the beat. Listen for the words *Mary* and *angels* for children to do the corresponding motions. (Angels—make a halo over your head with your hands; Mary—rub your belly.)

Lead children in singing the song two or three times so kids become familiar with the words.

SING:

**Long time ago in Bethlehem,
So the Holy Bible say,
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ,
Was born on Christmas day.**

(Chorus)

**Hark now, hear the angels sing:
A new King born today,
That folks may live forevermore
Because of Christmas day.**

Now Joseph and his wife, Mary,

**Went to Bethlehem that night
And found no place to lay their
head—
Not a single room was in sight.**

(Sing chorus.)

**While shepherds watched their
flocks by night,
They saw a bright, new, shining
star.**

**And from the East there came
three men
Bearing gifts from afar.**

(Sing chorus.)

"Mary's Boy Child" by Jester Hairston.

ASK: Tell about the people in our song. What reasons did they have to celebrate?

**What would you like to say
to Jesus to celebrate his
birth?**

SAY: Just as the angel told Mary, she ended up having a baby—God's Son, Jesus. Jesus' birth might not have seemed like a big deal, because he was just born in a barn. But Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men knew that Jesus' birth was cause for celebration. Let's give a big cheer for Jesus to show that ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.** Lead kids in cheering.

POINT ➔ **WE
CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.**

SAY: ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.** We're going to celebrate by playing a game. First, let's hold hands to make a circle. When kids have formed a circle, have them let go of each other's hands and sit down.

SAY: The angel came to Mary to tell her she'd be the mother of baby Jesus. We're going to tell each other about baby Jesus, too. This game is played like Duck, Duck, Goose, but without the running. Select one child to be the first Angel. The Angel will walk around the outside of the circle tapping the heads of the other children saying "Mary, Mary, Mary." When the Angel says "baby Jesus" while tapping a child's head, the children will trade places. The seated child will stand up and become the new Angel, and the first Angel will sit in the vacated space. Play several rounds.

ASK: What good news have you heard about Jesus?

What do you think an angel looks like?

Would you want to see an angel? Explain.

SAY: You might not have had an angel tell you about Jesus like Mary did, but I bet you've had a lot of wonderful people pass on the great news of Jesus! Remember that Jesus loves you and that ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.**

POINT ➡ **WE
CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.**

SAY: When the angel visited Mary, Mary praised God and said, "The Mighty One has done great things for me!" She spent time thinking about how great God is.

It's good to praise God for his wonderful gift of Jesus. That's one way ➡ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.** Think about this question on your own. In a minute, we can share answers.

ASK: What great things has God done for you?

Give children time to ponder their own ideas. After a minute, encourage them to praise God for those things by sharing them with the group.

SAY: God has done great things for all of us! And when Mary said God had done great things, she was celebrating something God did for *all* of us. God sent his Son to live on earth and be our Savior! That was good news for Mary, and it's good news for us. God has done great things, and ➡ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.**

POINT ➔ **WE
CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.**

Give each child a piece of paper and a crayon. Ask children to draw an angel as big as the piece of paper. SAY: **The angel told Mary that she was special and loved by God. Hold your angel, find a partner, and use the angel to tell each other, "You're special!"** Allow time for kids to form several different pairs and interact using the angels.

ASK: **What does the word *special* mean to you?**

What makes you special?

How can you make someone else feel special?

SAY: Today we're learning that ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.** Jesus was born because he thinks we're all special. So he came to earth to do something special for us. Mary was the special woman who got to be Jesus' mom. But we're all special, too, because we all get to be Jesus' friend.