

# Mary



## Find

- 'Barney' the sheep.
- An item of clothing or toy for a baby (Hide the item behind Barney)
- If possible two flip charts or if not pencil and paper for drawing on, and two simple drawings of Christmas objects.

## Introduce

- Ask a volunteer to come and see what Barney has for us today. Ask which character in the Christmas story might need to be getting ready for a baby (of course it is Mary).
- Mary is an amazing young lady of faith and of courage. She was a remarkable Servant of God – giving birth to his son, raising Jesus and also in helping to establish the early Christian Church. Throughout all of this she never seems to doubt God or her own ability to do the job set. Mary was obedient to God's calling for her life even if it meant she risked being rejected by those who she loved.

## Play

- But before we think about Mary in more detail let's play a game. This game will show whether we are as good at following instructions as Mary was.
- For this you will need four volunteers divided into two separate teams. One player in each team will describe a picture and the other one will draw what is described to them. It would be better if the two teams had different pictures so that there is no copying – you could have pictures such as a snowman or a Christmas tree or a present – the pictures shouldn't be too difficult. (*Note the person cannot simply say draw a tree – but can only use instructions referring to shapes and directions*). The idea of the game is to see who can give and who can follow instructions.



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## Talk

As we have already said Mary was a remarkable young woman. She was probably only a teenager when she discovered that she was pregnant with God's son. It does not matter how you find out you are pregnant it can still be a shock, but to be visited one day by an angel is another thing all together. The bible tells us an angel told Mary she was pregnant.

Due to Christmas traditions we now have a picture of angels being little girls in silver or white dresses with tinsel in their hair. But to think this is to completely misunderstand what an angel is like. The bible describes angels as mighty messengers of God. Imagine how Mary must have felt when confronted by one. The Bible implies that the angel Gabriel visited Mary at her own home and unsurprisingly Mary was troubled by what was happening. However, throughout the whole conversation with the angel Mary shows great faith and courage. Once she has been told that she will have God's Son Mary simply replies:

"I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said."

At this time, being pregnant and not being married was a very serious thing, Mary knew that she might have been thrown out of her house and even out of her village. Mary must also have realised that once Joseph heard she was pregnant, he may well not have wanted to marry her. From the time Mary accepted the job God had set for her, she knew that her life would never be the same, but Mary had the courage to do the right thing whatever the cost to her.

Far from the meek and mild lady that she is so often portrayed Mary was a young lady of great courage and faith. This Christmas as we think about Mary, let us also think about ourselves and whether we have the courage to do what is right. Do we also have a faith in God like Mary's faith? Do we have faith in ourselves knowing that through God, nothing is impossible and with faith we can achieve so much more?

## Pray

Father, help us to be more like Mary – ready to listen and obey. Give us the courage to do what is right even if it means daring to be different. Amen

### Classroom follow up:

- Christmas crafts based around angels
- A stained glass window craft of Mary and the Angel
- A diary entry as if you were either the Angel or Mary

