

## **BIRTH OF JESUS**

### **Memory Verse**

And Mary said, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. "

### **Story Characters**

Mary (girl of about 12 years old)  
Mary's Mother (stern but loving)  
Mary's father (middle-aged man)  
Gabriel  
Elizabeth (older woman)  
Joseph  
Old Woman  
Inn Keeper (middle-aged man)

### **Part 1: The Announcement**

Mother:

Listen to that... You'd think they'd know to go home after their lessons and help their mothers.

Mary:

How does this look mother?

Mother:

Oh, that dough looks beautiful.

*(Distracted by street noise)* Those boys are always up to such foolishness.

Mary:

Do you think I should let this rise some more?

Mother:

No. Start making the loaves now dear. *(clay jars moving)* Oh, we're nearly out of water. I'd better go and fill the jar. I'll be back in a few minutes.

Mary:

I'll put these in the oven as soon as I'm done.

Mother:

*(patronizing)* Such a good girl. Unlike those street hooligans.

Mary:

*(annoyed)* Mother. I'm not a "girl" any more. I'm engaged to be married!

Mother:

Sorry, dear. My "little girl" is growing up. Ah, Before you know it I'll be losing you. It's Joseph's gain.

Mary:

*(nervous laugh)*

Mother:

Look at you blush. You'll always be my little girl. *(Big hug)*

Quickly now. We can't keep your father waiting for supper when he gets home. *(Footsteps as she leaves)*

Mother:

*(Outside and stern)* You boys should be home helping your mothers!

Gabriel:

Greetings, favored one. The Lord is with you!

Mary:

*(Startled)* What?

Gabriel:

You are blessed above all women!

Mary:

*(frightened)* Who are you? I've never seen anyone like you before?

Gabriel:

Don't be afraid, Mary. You have been favored by God.

Mary:

Favored by God? Why would you say something like that to me?

Gabriel:

You are going to be blessed with a child. You will give birth to a son and His name will be Jesus.

Mary:

Are you a prophet?

Gabriel:

No, not a prophet.

Mary:

Then how do you know this? *(Pause)* Are you an angel?

Gabriel:

Yes, my name is Gabriel.

Mary:

*(quietly)* I am to have a son?

Gabriel:

*(excited)* Oh yes, and He will be great! He will be called the Son of the Highest, and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David.

Mary:

*(shock)* The Messiah!

Gabriel:

Your Son will reign over the house of Jacob in a kingdom that will last forever.

Mary:

I will give birth to our people's Messiah. *(questioning)* But how can this come about? I'm only engaged? I can't have a baby. I'm not to be married for some time?

Gabriel:

The Holy Spirit will make it come about. The power of God Almighty will come over you so that the Holy Child born to you will be called the Son of God.

Mary:

I've never heard of anything like this?

Gabriel:

Even now your cousin Elizabeth is going to have a baby.

Mary:

But she is an old woman?

Gabriel:

Yes, she wasn't able to have children all her life, but in three months she will give birth to a son. *(confident)*

You see Mary, with God nothing is impossible.

Mary:

*(thoughtful)* Yes. I am the Lord's willing servant. Let it be done to me just as you have said.

Gabriel:

*(reverb into distance)* Peace be to you favored one.

Mother:

(Walking in from outside mother sits down heavy jar on table.) My, the sun is very hot today. I should have gone to the well much earlier. Well at least we'll have cool water for the dinner table tonight. Your bread smells delicious. Mary...Mary? Why are you smiling?

Mary:

The bread?

Mother:

*(concerned)* Mary, what's come over you?

Mary:

Mother, did you know that Elizabeth is going to have baby boy?

Mother:

*(emphatic)* Now who told you that?

## **Part 2: Leaping for Joy**

Father:

Little one, just over this hill and we'll be at Zacharias' house.

Mary:

Father, thank you for taking me to see my cousin.

Father:

Hope this visit will do you some good sometimes getting away for a bit can be the best thing to do.

Mary:

Father, why don't the people in Nazareth believe that I spoke to an angel? They've been saying some awful things about me.

Father:

It is hard for some to have as much faith as you, little one.

Mary:

Do you think I can stay till Elizabeth's baby is born?

Father:

We'll just have to see. We're waiting to hear from Joseph and his family. They need to decide what will happen with the engagement. When it is time I'll come for you.

Mary:

*(excited)* Look, I see their house.

*Door knock. Footsteps on wood floor.*

Father:

*(calling out)* Hello, anyone home?

Elizabeth:

*(from another room)* Coming, coming. I'll be right there.

Father:

Take your time. It's good just to be out of the sun.

Elizabeth:

*(entering the room)* An old woman like me gets worn out too easily. But I shouldn't complain.

Mary:

Elizabeth, so good to see you.

Elizabeth:

Mary. *(surprised and startled)* Oh, the Baby.

Mary:

Are you all right?

Elizabeth:

Yes, our baby must be as happy to have you here as I am. *(out of breath)* Oh, he's moving about like never before. I'll have to sit down.

Father:

Here, let me help you.

Elizabeth:

Thank you, dear.

Father:

A sign that God has blessed you with a healthy child.

Elizabeth:

Yes, I am blessed, but not like you Mary.

Mary:

*(shy)* So you know about my baby?

Elizabeth:

*(joyously)* Yes, God has revealed to me that you are blessed among all women, and blessed also is the child that you are carrying.

Father:

Her mother and I are grateful that you have opened your home to us. We know that this is a difficult time for you to have a guest.

Mary:

I'll help as much as I can.

Elizabeth:

Difficult? Why should I be so honored to have the mother of my Lord come and stay with me? From the moment I heard Mary's voice, my baby has been leaping for joy. And he still is. Here, feel for yourself, Mary. Yes, feel him kick. Ooh! Maybe a little too much that time.

Mary:

Father, its beautiful.

Father:

Elizabeth, take no offense, but having a baby at your age is... well, I wouldn't have believed unless I saw it with my own eyes.

Elizabeth:

But not you, right my dear?

Mary:

Why would I doubt what God could do?

Elizabeth:

Mary, you are blessed because you believed. God will perform all things that were told to you.

Mary:

*(Thoughtful)* Our God is so amazing. From deep within my soul I want to Magnify the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God my savior.

Elizabeth:

Yes child.

Mary:

He has taken notice of me, me a humble servant girl. And in the future all generations will call me blessed. For God Almighty has brought about this marvelous thing. Holy is His Name.

### **Part 3: The Journey Begins**

Joseph:

*(whispered)* Everyone's in bed but me. I haven't had a good night's sleep in weeks. I don't know what to do. God, you know I love Mary, and God, I know that she loves you. It's not like her to lie. But this story about being visited by an angel... it's just too hard for me to believe. My friends tell me I should publicly denounce her and find another girl to marry. My father is concerned that going through with the marriage could hurt my chances for success in Nazareth. I've never been one to worry about what others say. But what about Mary? She's been sent away to stay with relatives. Waiting for word from me. What do I say? Should I release her from our engagement? Do I keep her in a distant town to protect my reputation?

*(Dog barks in distance.)*

Joseph:

*(sigh)* Why did this have to happen? This was to be the happiest time of my life. *(Angry)* Why did she do this to me? Why? *(thoughtful)* All my life I have desired to be a just man. But now what is just? God, I need to hear from you. Whatever you say I should do... I'll do it. I need to know.

Joseph:

*(full voice)* God, I need to know.

*(Dog barks as he walks to bed and covers up.)*

Joseph:

*(falling asleep)* I need to know. I will do whatever you want me to do.

Gabriel:

Joseph, Joseph.

Joseph:

*(groggy)* Who's there?

Gabriel:

Joseph, son of David.

Joseph:

*(startled)* How did you get in here?

Gabriel:

I am God's messenger.

Joseph:

*(shock)* An Angel. Why have you come?

Gabriel:

God has heard your prayer.

Joseph:

*(fearful)* He has? What am I to do?

Gabriel:

*(confidant)* Son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. Be certain of this, the child she carries is from the Holy Spirit.

Joseph:

Then she was telling the truth. An angel did speak to her.

Gabriel:

Yes, it's true. When she gives birth to her son you will name Him Jesus.

Joseph:

Jesus?

Gabriel:

Name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Joseph:

I don't understand?

Gabriel:

Don't you remember what the prophet said? "Behold a virgin will be with Child and will bring forth a Son, and they will call His name Emmanuel."

Joseph:

God with us.

*(Donkey walking on gravel with Joseph walking beside.)*

Joseph:

We'll stop here. You need to rest.

Mary:

But we'll be late getting to Bethlehem.

Joseph:

Here, let me help you off.

*(Donkey brays as Mary gets down.)*

Mary:

Thank you. The pain is getting much stronger, I really did need to stop. It would have been so much easier if the Baby would have come before you had to register.

Joseph:

Apparently our timing is not the same as God's.

Woman:

*(Walking up)* I see you young people have found my favorite resting spot.

Woman:

No my dears. It looks like you need the shade. Are you traveling to Bethlehem?

Joseph:

Yes. I need to register for the census.

Woman:

Another son of David comes back to his humble hometown. And you my dear look like you shouldn't be traveling.

Mary:

We didn't have much choice.

Joseph:

Do we have far to go?

Woman:

No, but I would hurry. Bethlehem is a small town. There's only one Inn and I fear that the census has made it hard to find rooms there. You know how to get there?

Joseph:

I think so. I came here once many years ago with my father.

Mary:

Do you know any other places we could stay?

Woman:

I'd put you up in my home, but it's full. I'm sorry.

*(Woman gets up and walking away.)*

Woman:

I hope for your sakes there's a place for you at the Inn.

Woman:

*(Calling back)* I'll pray that God will guide you.

Joseph:

*(Calling out)* Thank you, I know He will.

Mary:

Joseph, you have no idea how good it is to hear you say that.

#### **Part 4: Once in Royal David's City**

*(Crowed village street: Animals, carts passing, people walking and talking.)*

Joseph:

It's been a while since I was here, but I think the Inn is down this street.

Mary:

Joseph, we need to hurry. The pains are getting worse.

*(Knock on wooden door. Door opens.)*

Innkeeper:

*(polite but tired)* Welcome to The King's Inn, how can I help you.

Joseph:

I'm looking for a room for...

Innkeeper:

*(interrupting)* Sorry no rooms. We are full. So many sons of David returning for the census.

Joseph:

*(pleading)* But we need a room, my wife is about to have a baby.

Innkeeper:

*(happy)* Oh, another name to add to the register. Congratulations!

Joseph:

Do you know of any other place we could go?

Innkeeper:

I'm sorry I don't know of any.

Joseph:

I can't let her give birth in the street.

Woman:

*(walking up)* I thought I would find you here. I felt badly that I couldn't offer you a place to stay. Did you get a room?

Mary:

Thank you for looking out for us. It was so kind.

Woman:

And how is the baby?

Mary:

*(pained)* The pains are getting...AH!

Woman:

*(stern)* Excuse me Dear, I need to talk to this Innkeeper.

Innkeeper:

I wish for your sakes I did know of a place. Everyone in Bethlehem has relatives staying in their homes.

Woman:

*(walking up and interrupting)* This girl is about to have a baby. You might not know these people, but you know me. You need to find a place for them!

Innkeeper:

Please, please you needn't get so upset.

Mary:

*(Calling Out)* Joseph, Help me!

Joseph:

Mary...

Woman:

Is that what you want going on in front of your establishment?

Innkeeper:

I can't tell a paying customer to get out of a room so a latecomer can have a baby.

Woman:

Well these people aren't going anywhere now. At least offer to take their animal.

Innkeeper:

*(raised voice)* Sir, I can provide a place for your colt. Follow me.

Joseph:

Come on Mary. We won't have to worry about this beast for a while.

*(Pats the donkey and it brays.)*

Woman:

Here my dear. Let me help you.

*0 (Stable ambience: horse, donkey, chickens, and sheep)*

Joseph:

I will gladly pay you for putting up our donkey.

Mary:

*(Pain)* Joseph I can't go any further. *(sharp pain)* Ah, the baby is coming.

Woman:

*(in charge)* Joseph, I need that blanket. Put it on this pile of straw. You, go and get some fresh water.

Innkeeper:

Me...get water? Why? She can't have a baby here!

*Fluffing up straw then putting blanket on it.*

Woman:

There's no stopping now. I need that water! *(calling out)* And bring a lamp. It will be dark soon.

Innkeeper:

Water and a lamp. Yes mamma. *(walking off)*

Mary:

Joseph, don't leave me.

Joseph:

I won't Mary. What should I do?

Woman:

*(kindly)* The first thing is not to worry. I've helped deliver many babies in this town. Even helped with one of the Innkeepers sons.

Joseph:

You did. Mary, did you hear that?

Mary:

Then God did guide us.

Woman:

Yes, it seems he has my dear. Now let's get busy. We have to bring another son of David into the world.

*(Night ambience with new born baby cry in distance.)*

*Bible Source: Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version, A Bible for Kids, Zondervan Publishing House, 1999.*

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<https://kidscorner.reframemedia.com/bible-stories/birth-of-jesus>

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