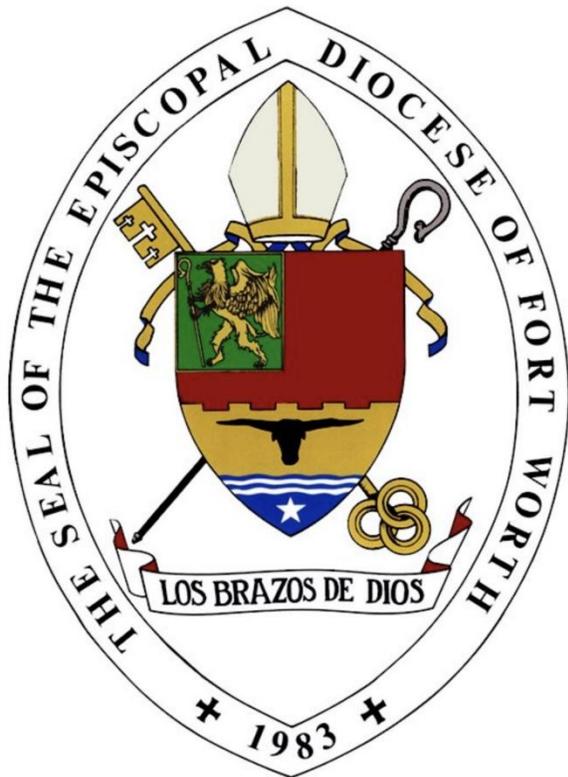


EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

A lectionary-based Sunday school curriculum for Pre-K through High School



**FOURTH
SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

**Sunday from
December 18 to
December 24**

A free resource created by the Christian Education Commission
of the Anglican Diocese of Fort Worth

Sunday School Curriculum for the Fourth Sunday in Advent, Year A, The Annunciation

Lectionary Texts:

Isaiah 7:10-17

Psalm 24

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Ahaz through Isaiah again. He said, ¹¹ “I am the Lord your God. Ask me to give you a sign. It can be anything in the deepest grave or in the highest heaven.”

¹² But Ahaz said, “I won’t ask. I won’t test the Lord.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Listen, you members of the royal family of David! Isn’t it enough for you to test the patience of human beings? Are you also going to test the patience of my God? ¹⁴ The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will still be very young when he can decide between right and wrong. ¹⁶ Even before then, the lands of the two kings you fear will be ruined. ¹⁷ The Lord will also bring the king of Assyria against you. And he will bring him against your people and the whole royal family. That will be a time of trouble. It will be unlike any since the people of Ephraim broke away from Judah.”

Psalm 24

The earth belongs to the Lord. And so does everything in it.

The world belongs to him. And so do all those who live in it.

² He set it firmly on the oceans.

He made it secure on the waters.

³ Who can go up to the temple on the mountain of the Lord?

Who can stand in his holy place?

⁴ Anyone who has clean hands and a pure heart.

Anyone who does not trust in the statue of a god.

Anyone who doesn’t use the name of that god when he makes a promise.

⁵ People like that will receive the Lord’s blessing.

When God their Savior hands down his sentence, it will be in their favor.

⁶ The people who look to God are like that.

God of Jacob, they look to you.

⁷ Open wide, you gates.
Open up, you ancient doors.
Then the King of glory will come in.

⁸ Who is the King of glory?
The Lord, who is strong and mighty.
The Lord, who is mighty in battle.

⁹ Open wide, you gates.
Open wide, you ancient doors.
Then the King of glory will come in.

¹⁰ Who is he, this King of glory?
The Lord who rules over all.
He is the King of glory.

Romans 1:1-7

I, Paul, am writing this letter. I serve Christ Jesus. I have been appointed to be an apostle. God set me apart to tell others his good news. ² He promised the good news long ago. He announced it through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. ³ The good news is about God's Son. He was born into the family line of King David. ⁴ By the Holy Spirit, he was appointed to be the mighty Son of God. God did this by raising him from the dead. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ We received grace because of what Jesus did. He made us apostles to the Gentiles. We must invite all of them to obey God by trusting in Jesus. We do this to bring glory to him. ⁶ You also are among those Gentiles who are appointed to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ I am sending this letter to all of you in Rome. You are loved by God and appointed to be his holy people.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph was faithful to the law. But he did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet, ²³ “The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.” ([Isaiah 7:14](#)) The name Immanuel means “God with us.”

²⁴ Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not sleep with her until she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

Overview of the Texts:

The lectionary readings for today all tell and explain the message that through the power of the Holy Spirit of God, the Virgin Mary would become pregnant with a son, and he would be called Immanuel, meaning ‘God with Us’, as Isaiah had prophesied. Paul wrote and spread this Good News about the baby, who was appointed to be God’s Son, born in the line of King David. God would appoint him to be Jesus, the mighty Son of God who would save his people from their sins, by raising him from the dead. An angel appeared to the Virgin Mary who was betrothed to Joseph to explain God’s plan. He was to be the Lord Jesus Christ, as the psalmist wrote, the King of Glory who rules over all. Teachers do a study on the theology and parallels of Mary as the ‘Ark of the Covenant’ because she carried the Word of God (Jesus) in her womb, much like the original Ark carried the Ten Commandments.

PreK – Kindergarten Lesson Plans:

Opening Prayer: Lord’s Prayer

Memory Verse: “The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.” Matthew 1:23

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: A children’s bible with the story of the Annunciation, a collection of pictures/art depicting the angel announcing to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive a son, images of Joseph with her, and images of the Holy Family (these images can be found on the internet and displayed on an iPad, laptop or cell phone, or print copies of a few, if possible), crayons, costumes for the angel and Mary (choir robe and halo, blue dress and scarf, for example).

Preparation: Make copies of the memory verse above. Find photos listed in Supplies section. Make copies of coloring page located at the end of this lesson. Gather simple costumes for the angel and Mary.

Lesson:

As the children enter the room, invite them to begin coloring the picture of the Angel Gabriel and Mary.

Read the children the passage from a children's bible, then retell the story of Matthew 1:18-25.

Discuss the story:

Remind the children of the Trinity of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in One and that nothing is impossible with God who is all-powerful and all-knowing. Ask them to retell the bible story of the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary and what he told Mary. Was Mary surprised? Why? What were the surprising things the Angel told her? What did Mary say when the Angel explained the message from God that she would be the mother of the Son of God, who would be called 'Immanuel'? Explain that Mary said, 'Yes' to God, giving us an example of being obedient to God. Mary loved God and spent time praying to Him and seeking God's will and ways for her life. She trusted God and said 'yes' to Him to give birth to Jesus. Ask and discuss the ways we can be obedient to God?

Show the children the pictures of the paintings various artists have painted to depict Gabriel's visit to Mary.

You can plan this animated version of the Annunciation if you have an iPad or laptop in your classroom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrYvuYwPAvU> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbATy0YFrYA> appropriate for your class.

Now, ask for volunteers to play Mary and Gabriel and retell the story. Let everyone have a turn.

Closing Prayer: Our Father

Elementary Lesson Plans:

Opening Prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Memory Verse: "The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." Matthew 1:23

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: A children's bible with the story of the Annunciation, 3 x 5 notecards for each student, yarn, hole punch, markers, a collection of pictures/art of the angel announcing to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive, images of Joseph with her, and images of the Holy Family (these images can be found on the internet and displayed on an iPad, laptop or cell phone, or print copies of a few, if possible), crayons, costumes for an angel and Mary (choir robe and halo, blue dress and scarf for example).

Preparation: Make copies of the memory verse above. Find photos listed in Supplies section. Make copies of coloring page located at the end of this lesson. Gather simple costumes for the angel and Mary.

Lesson:

As the children enter the room, invite them to begin coloring the picture of the Angel Gabriel and Mary.

Read the children the Gospel passage from a children's bible, then retell the story of Matthew 1:18-25. Read the Isaiah passage, reminding them of the prophecy foretold about Jesus.

Discuss the story:

Remind the children of the Trinity of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in One and that nothing is impossible with God who is all-powerful and all-knowing. Ask them to retell the bible story of the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary and what he told Mary. Was Mary surprised? Why? What were the surprising things the Angel told her? What did Mary say when the Angel explained the message from God that she would be the mother of the Son of God, who would be called 'Immanuel'? Explain that Mary said, 'Yes' to God, giving us an example of being obedient to God. Mary loved God and spent time praying to Him and seeking God's will and ways for her life. She trusted God and said 'yes' to Him to give birth to Jesus. Ask and discuss the ways we can be obedient to God?

Play this video of the Annunciation using an iPad, laptop, or TV.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHDySUp1fll&list=RDEHDySUp1fll&start_radio=1

This song of the Annunciation could be played, and the children can sing along.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKlc8JvxGbU&list=RDdKlc8JvxGbU&start_radio=1

Now, ask for volunteers to play Mary and Gabriel and retell the story. Let everyone have a turn.

Show the children the pictures of the paintings various artists have painted to depict Gabriel's visit to Mary.

Craft: Provide the notecard for each student. Have them write the word YES on it in bold letters with a marker and decorate around it. Punch two holes in top two corners and tie yarn to act as a hanger. Encourage them to keep it in a visible place to remind them to say "yes" to God as he guides them to be his disciples in the world.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

Junior and Senior High Lesson Plans:

Opening Prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary, Apostles' Creed

Memory Verse: "The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." Matthew 1:23

Supplies & Preparation:

Supplies: Bibles, white board/markers or paper/pen, 3 x 5 notecard for each student, markers, yarn, and hole punch.

Preparation: Prayerfully read all of the passages in today's lectionary. Notice how the prophecy of Isaiah and his message to the people flows through every reading. Notice the central themes and the meaning. Who is it for? Why? Notice the reason given in each reading. Gather or search online for various artwork depicting the Annunciation. You can show them using an iPad, laptop or cell phone if needed.

Lesson:

The object of today's lesson is an open discussion about the prophecy and plan of God to provide the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Read each passage in the lectionary. Have the students write down on a white board the main theme after each passage is read.

Invite them to discuss each passage and repeated themes or phrases in each reading.

Ask them what is new to them in each passage that they may not have remembered hearing before. The event of the Annunciation has been read over and over. Don't miss all of the message that God planned through His message given through the angel to Mary and to Joseph.

Discuss the questions Mary had when she heard the message. Why was she surprised? Discuss the piety of Mary and why God may have chosen her? Look at Luke's gospel for more insight to why God chose her. What was her response? What made her heart and mind willing to answer God the way she did? Remind the students that the 'yes' of Mary is the powerful and lasting lesson we learn from her and why she is remembered forever.

Discuss the response of Joseph to the message of the angel to Mary. How did he react? Why? What would be troubling about this new reality for him? For Mary? What were his concerns? Why was his response to the angel's message in his dream?

Discuss the theology of Mary as the "Ark of the Covenant" because she carried the Word of God (Jesus) in her womb, much like the original Ark of the Covenant carried the Ten Commandments. Discuss the parallels.

Craft:

Provide the notecard for each student. Have them write the word YES on it in bold letters with a marker and decorate around it; punch two holes in top two corners and tie yarn to act as a 'hanger'; Encourage them to keep it in a visible place to remind them to say 'yes' to God as he guides them to be His disciples in the world.

This beautiful song of the Annunciation could be shown using an iPad, TV, or laptop if you have access.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSiEeFhXsLQ&list=RDCSiEeFhXsLQ&start_radio=1

Look at pictures of various artwork depicting the Annunciation.

Closing Prayer: The Collect of the Day

