

Gather

Play a good news/bad news game, where one person makes up some good news and the next person has to counter that with the related bad news.

What good news have you had recently?
Was it surprising or something that you had been hoping for, for a while?

The people of Israel had been hoping for a Messiah for hundreds of years, but Mary had no idea that it would be her that would be the one to give birth to him!

Respond

Read Luke 1:26-38 aloud and see how many bits of good news the pupils can spot. Check against the list below.

- v28: God is with you
- v30: No need to be afraid when God is with you
- v31: God had kept his promise of sending a saviour, Jesus
- v32: Jesus is great and the Son of God
- v33: Jesus' kingdom of love and justice will never end
- v36: God answers prayers sometimes miraculously
- v37: No word from God will ever fail
- v38: We too can chose to be God's loved and loving servants just like Mary



Engage – Luke 1:26-38

We know very little about Mary. Dr Luke in his book about the life of Jesus, tells us that although she was engaged she was not married and she lived in a village called Nazareth. Very little other information is available about her, though people have often used their imagination to fill in the details. Luke writes that she did receive a very unexpected visit from an angel. This heavenly messenger announced himself as Gabriel, the angel who stood in the presence of God.

Christians believe that Gabriel had an important message of good news from God. Mary was told that even though she was unmarried she was to become a mother, and her child was to be called Jesus, the son of God. He was the fulfilment of that long ago promise to Abraham that all the families of earth would be blessed through him. I imagine that Mary was quite overwhelmed by all of this so took the opportunity to go and visit her cousin Elizabeth.

Joseph, who Mary had promised to marry, was not left out of the picture. Matthew, in his life of Jesus, wrote that an angel went to see Joseph to tell him about the baby too.

Send

Check out the [resources on Mary from the ABYYT](#)

Christians believe that God chose Mary to share his good news. In what ways are you going to be good news today?