

# Believing

**Virtue:** Joy—finding a way to be happy, even when things don't go your way.

**Memory Verse:** "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" *Philippians 4:4, NIV*

**Bible Story:** Believing (Gabriel appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-38*

**Bottom Line:** You can have joy because anything is possible with God.

## SUPPLIES NEEDED

- This lesson guide
- "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" (1966)
- A Bible
- A sign for each of the characters to wear (see the Bible Story)
- A container of vinegar
- A container of baking soda.

## INTRODUCTION

**Movie:** "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" (1966)

**Start Time:** 10 minutes, 50 seconds

**Where to Begin:** The Whos come out and sing about Christmas.

**Where to End:** The Grinch carves the roast beast.

**Plot:** The Grinch has stolen all of the Whos' decorations and gifts. He's proud of his evil ways until he hears the Whos singing and celebrating anyway. Then his heart is warmed and he joins the celebration.

Use this scene to help the kids see that things did not go the way that the Whos (or the Grinch) wanted them to. In spite of this they still found a way to find joy when things didn't go their way and it even helped the Grinch to be nice. Today's Bible Story is about a girl name Mary. Things didn't quite go the way that she wanted them to but God helped her find joy in that.

## BIBLE STORY

*Note: A large part of good story telling is being able to tell a story in your own words. You have to make it your own and tell it in a way you are comfortable. Become familiar with the following story and then give it to your kids in a way that only you can!*

Call six people up and assign them to each of the following people in today's story. Whenever their name is read in the story they must have the following response:

**Mary:** Point to yourself, tilt your head, and say, "Who, me?"

**Joseph:** Shrug your shoulders and say, "What now?"

**Elizabeth:** Hold your nose and say "Hello!"

**Jesus:** Cross your arms over your chest and say, "I love you."

**Angel:** Flap your arms like wings and yell, "Hallelujah!"

*Encourage kids to be wild and crazy as you read the story. Pause for responses every time you see a word in boldface.*

In the sixth month of **Elizabeth's** pregnancy, God sent an **angel** to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a girl who was engaged to be married to a man named **Joseph**. The girl's name was **Mary**. The **angel** went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

**Mary** was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the **angel** said to her, “Do not be afraid, **Mary**; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you and **Joseph** are to call him **Jesus**. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give **Jesus** the throne of his father David, and he will reign forever; his kingdom will never end.”

“How will this be?” **Mary** asked the **angel**.

The **angel** answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called **Jesus**. Even **Elizabeth** your relative is going to have a child in her old age. For no word from God will ever fail.”

“I am the Lord’s servant,” **Mary** answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the **angel** left her.

## WRAP-UP

The purpose of this object lesson is to show the children that when we focus on God’s love for us, our lives will bubble over with joy. The children will see an object lesson with vinegar and baking soda bubbling out of a cup. The teacher will explain that God’s love for us can cause us to bubble over with joy.

*Note: Make sure to test AHEAD OF TIME the ratio of how much baking soda and vinegar you need to get the desired effect.*

### To introduce this activity, say the following:

1. Something happens to us when we are joyful.
2. Our lives just bubble over with excitement.
3. I want to show you something.

### During the activity, say the following:

1. Let’s imagine that this cup of vinegar is like your life.
2. Not too exciting.
3. Now let’s imagine that this baking soda is the kind of joy that God wants us to have
4. What are some things about God’s love that can make us joyful? (*I can go to heaven because of Jesus. God loves everybody. God loves me even when I mess up. God sent Jesus because He loves me. Jesus loved me enough to die for my sins.*) *Note: For each answer that the kids give add some baking soda to the vinegar. When it bubbles over continue.*
5. If we focus on all the wonderful things about God’s love, our lives will bubble over with joy.

### After the activity, say the following:

1. When we remember how much God loves us and we look around and see all the wonderful things He has done to show us His love, we can’t help being joyful!
2. Just like in this activity the joy bubbled out of the cup, when we focus on the fact that God loves us, we won’t be able to contain our joy. It will come out of us in ways that others will notice.