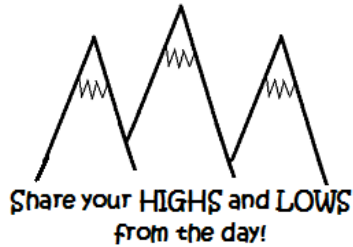


The Pass-the-Plate Devos

"Families passing on the faith as they pass their plates at the Family Table during the fourth week of Advent"



1. Who did Gabriel the angel visit?
2. Mary was troubled by her visit with the angel – and you certainly couldn't blame her. Today, we might think of angels as being cute human-like people with wings. However, Gabriel was an archangel of Almighty God, and he might have looked ready for battle. Some have even called Gabriel the "Angel of Death." However, Gabriel came not to talk about death, but about life. What did the angel say to Mary?
3. What did the angel say the child that will soon be born would be called?
4. To show Mary that nothing is impossible with God, the angel brought her news about her relative? What exciting news did he tell her?
5. What did Mary say to the angel when the angel was done speaking?

Bible Focus: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin'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 be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

The Word of the Lord! THANKS BE TO GOD!

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Mary answered the angel saying, "I am the Lord's servant." We too, are servants of the Lord. It is said that Christmas is the season of giving, but you and your family have been giving and sharing your gifts and talents *all year long*. To celebrate the ways that you serve God and the ways in which you give your gifts, have each person make a placemat for another person in your family. Write the family member's name in the center, and around that, list the gifts and services a person might have and do for Jesus. (ie – Tom might be a "good listener" or "show patience" or "work at the homeless shelter.") Be sure that you draw some Christmas decorations in the extra space. Your family can then set these placemats out for Christmas dinner.