

THE PROMISED MESSIAH

CENTRAL TRUTH

As we study Luke 1:26-28 this week, we will learn about the angel Gabriel's message to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Though the angel's message left Mary confused, she didn't spiral into frustration, apathy, or unbelief. The opposite happened: She resolved to trust in the Lord. And through Mary, God would bring about **Jesus, the promised Messiah, sent to save humanity.**

KEY QUESTION

↑ **What does Jesus's name mean? What does this tell us about the reason He came into the world?**

The name "Jesus" is the Greek translation of the Hebrew name Joshua, which means "the Lord's Salvation." By God's grace and power, Mary would give birth to the promised Savior of the world.

KEEP IN MIND

- A key theme in this week's session is the Lord's faithfulness to His promises. The students in your group may have been on the receiving end of broken promises; however, they don't need to fear this with the Lord. Remind them that He is a promise-keeping God whose faithfulness is perfectly revealed in the person and work of Jesus.
- Mary was willing to obey and serve the Lord, even when her obedience would have certainly been damaging to her social standing. For many students—and adults—there lies a temptation to reject the Lord and His Word in order to fit in. Emphasize that Mary modeled a posture all believers are called to have toward the Lord: a willingness to obey Him, even when we're confused.

APPLICATION

↻ **How can we regularly ask the Lord to help us believe the promises in His Word?**

THE WIN

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should understand that Jesus is the promised Messiah who came into the world to save sinners.

FOR THE LEADER: Amid the busyness of this Christmas season, leaders have the opportunity to help students slow down and remember the reason we celebrate: Jesus's arrival to save humanity. We serve a promise-keeping God, and this is good news!

7 ARROWS

- ↻ What does this passage say?
- ↑ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ← What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ↔ How does this passage change the way I relate to people?
- ↓ What does this passage tell us about the human heart?
- ↻ How does this passage prompt me to pray?
- What does this passage demand of me?