



THIS PROGRAM - OVERVIEW

There are many stories in the bible of men and women putting their faith into action and achieving great things for God. In this program, we are learning about some of these 'heroes of the faith' listed in Hebrews 11. Our heart is that kids will see the many ways they can activate their faith in their lives, learning from these great men and women who have gone before us. Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. We don't trust our feelings, or what the circumstance looks like - instead we have faith in God!

Our Repeated phrase is: In this program we are looking at heroes in the bible who stepped out in faith, so we can be encouraged to do the same.

Memory Verse: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see"- Hebrews 11:1

WEEK 11: MARY

Mary played a vital role in the plan God had created in saving his people. Mary was a very young girl that had done nothing extraordinary with her life yet God used her to bring into the world our saviour, Jesus! Throughout the lead up to Jesus' birth we can see the plan God had from the very beginning. Jesus' birth was not a quick thrown together plan but instead everything that had happened before was in the lead up to this moment. God uses all things and all people for his purpose. **Mary stepped out in faith, so we can be encouraged to do the same.**

RESOURCES

- Have a list of christmas words and a hat or bowl for the game
- [Slides for the illustration.](#)
- A bible, Colouring tools and the Week 11 worksheet for connect groups.

PREACH OUTLINE

Story: Tell the story of God sending an Angel to Elizabeth, then Mary and then Joseph. Share about how the good news was also given to the Shepherds and the Wise Men. All of heaven celebrated and worshipped God, He had sent His son to save us.

Points to hit:

1. **For God so loved the World - he made a plan to save us long ago.** Do you know that God planned for Jesus to be born into the world right at the beginning of the bible? He promised Abraham that the nations would be blessed through his descendants and David that a he would have a descendant who would be called 'mighty God' a King whose kingdom would last forever! Jesus fulfilled many promises from God.
2. **Mary received the promise.** It is not everyday an angel appears and tells you that you are going to have a baby, and not just any baby but the Son of the Most High. But instead of screaming and running out of the room, Mary showed her great faith and accepted what the Lord had promised her. She was going to carry into the world the Son of God. (Luke 1 :29-38 & 45)
3. **God took care of Mary and showed everyone Jesus was the saviour!** The wise men followed a star, the shepherds were visited by angels, Elizabeths belly leapt for joy and Joseph had a dream. God put everything in place, Mary did not have to do a thing. And everyone worshipped God. This Christmas lets worship and give thanks to God for sending His son Jesus to save us.

ILLUSTRATION IDEA

[Use these slides found here](#) as a visual aid for your preach. Explain to kids that God always had a plan to save His people. Jesus wasn't a spur of the moment idea that God had, thinking today is the day I rescue the world. NO! God always had a plan and we can see that throughout the bible. God has a plan for everyone, you and me and we can believe His promises to us. Especially His promise to save us if we believe in Jesus.

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS

Connect groups are a time to build friendships and engage kids in discussion about the preach. Remember to keep it fun and to pray!

1. How do you think Mary felt when an angel appeared in her room?
2. Did Mary believe what God said to her? Read Luke 1:45.
3. What are some things about Jesus birth that show us he was planned long ago and filled many promises?
4. Why is it such great news that Jesus was born?
5. What are some promises God says to us in the bible that we can believe like Mary? What are some things God promises to do for us?

GAME: CHRISTMAS CHARADES

Can you guess these Christmas themed objects and actions?

1. Split the kids into teams and explain that the aim of the game is to win the most points by guessing the most Christmas themed charades!
2. Place a bowl at the front of the room and give each team 30 seconds to present to their teams, taking turns.
3. Team A will send up a player to act. On 'Go' they will draw out the charade items from the bowl and act them out for their team to guess. At the end of 30 seconds they add the number of correct guesses to their score and it's Team B's turn.
4. After a few rounds declare a winner!

Ideas: caroling, baby Jesus, Mary on a donkey, the angels singing, candy canes, snow men, present wrapping etc.