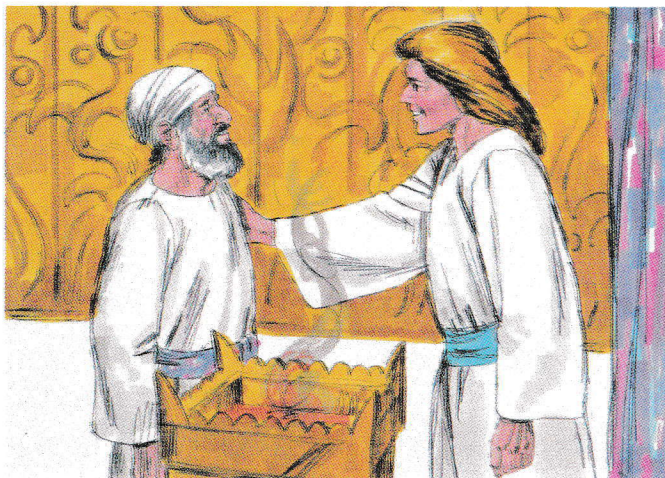
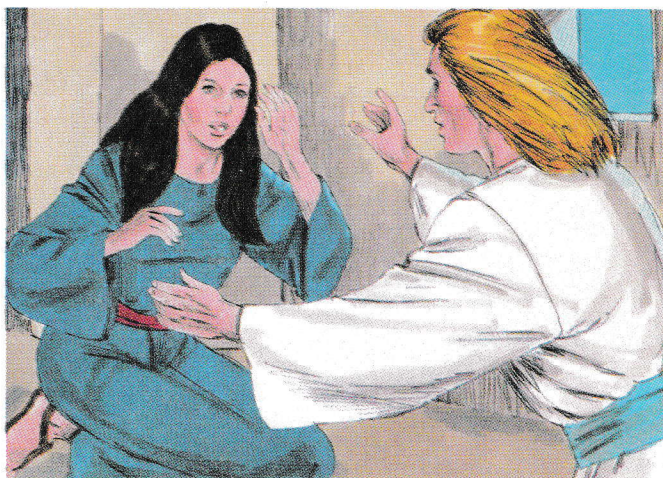


# An Angel Visits Mary



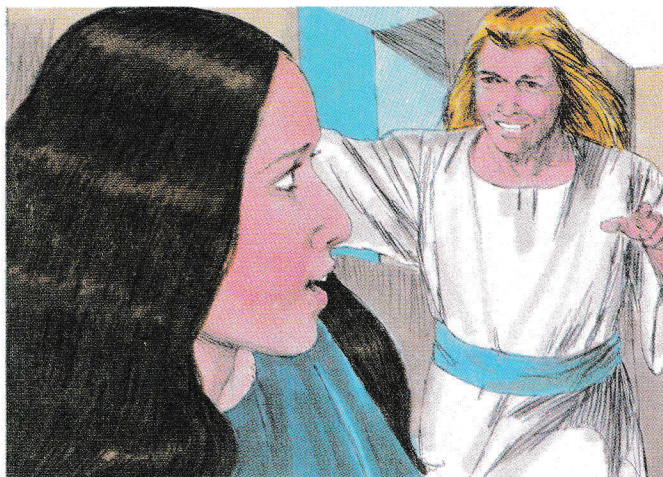
**1** About six months after Zechariah and Elizabeth learned that they would have a baby, God sent an angel to a girl named Mary at Nazareth. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph.



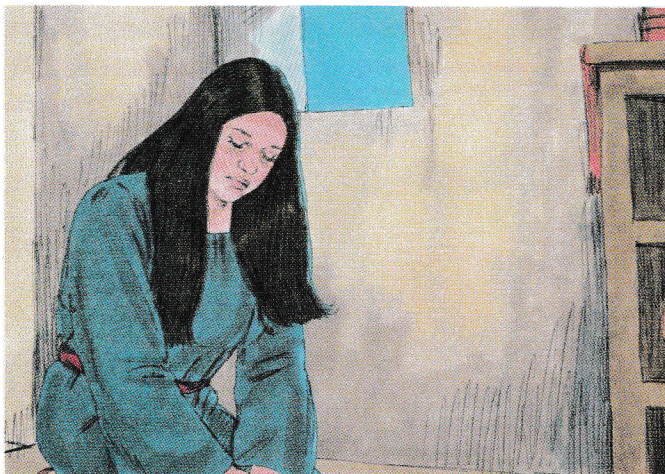
**2** The angel said: "Peace be with you. The Lord has greatly blessed you." Mary was confused and wondered what the angel meant. "God is very pleased with you," the angel continued.



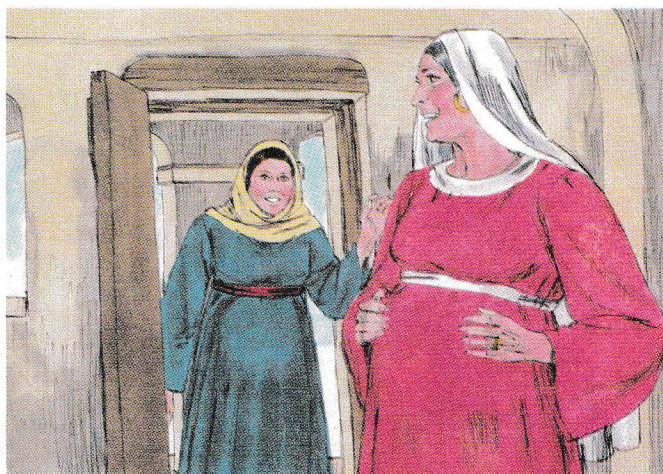
**3** "You are going to have a baby boy, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High. God will make him a king like his ancestor David. His kingdom will never end."



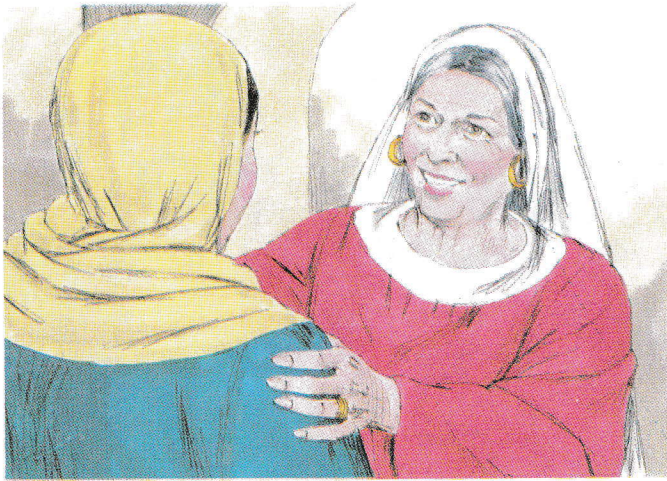
**4** "But I am not yet married," Mary said. "How can this be?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come and God's power will rest upon you. Therefore, the child will be called the Son of God."



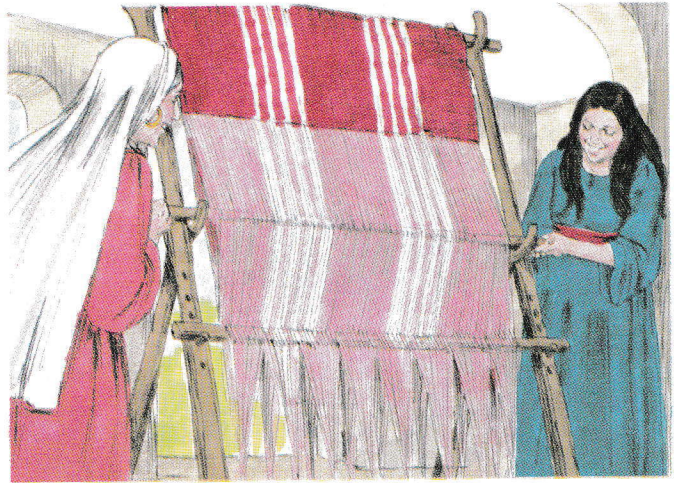
**5** So Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. May it be as you have said." Then the angel went away.



**6** Soon after that, Mary went to visit Elizabeth, who was her relative. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she felt her baby move within her.



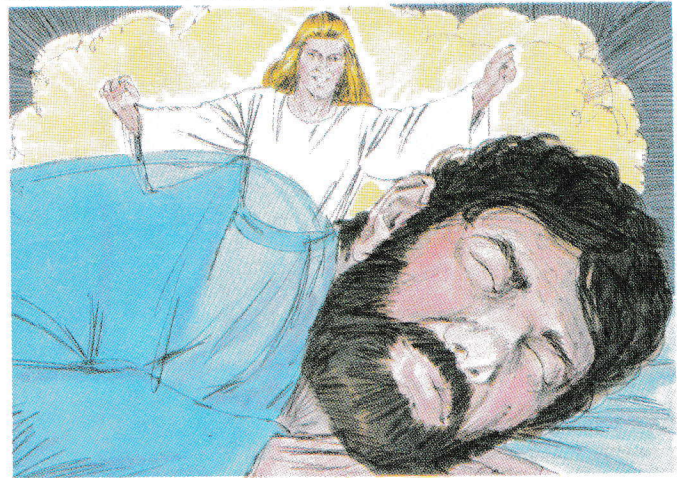
**7** Then Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said, "You are the most blessed of all women. And blessed is the child you will bear."



**8** Mary said, "My heart praises the Lord. All people will call me blessed because of the great things God has done for me." Mary stayed with Elizabeth three months and then returned home.



**9** When Joseph learned that Mary was going to have a baby, he was very unhappy. Joseph decided to quietly break his engagement with Mary. He did not want to disgrace Mary before other people.



**10** But before he had done anything about this, an angel appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The child in her is from the Holy Spirit."



**11** "She will give birth to a boy," the angel continued. "You shall name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." After this dream, Joseph went ahead and took Mary to be his wife.



**12** All this happened so that what the Lord said through the prophet Isaiah would come true: "A virgin will have a son and they will call him Immanuel (which means 'God with us')."