

Name of Pupil: _____

Advent

Advent is a time of waiting, of getting ready for the Birth of Jesus. During this time we read stories from the Bible that helps us to think of this important time as we think of God being in our world. Some of the people we especially recall are Elizabeth and Zechariah and Mary. The following are the stories recorded in the Bible that helps us think of the important event of the birth of Jesus. We begin with The Birth of John the Baptist being announced. We read about it Luke's account in the Bible.

Lk 1:8,11,13-25

On day Zechariah was doing his work as a priest in the Temple, taking his turn in the daily service...An angel of the Lord appeared to him...When Zechariah saw him, he was alarmed and felt afraid. But the angel said to him, 'Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. You are to name him John. How glad and happy you will be, and how happy many others will be when he is born! John will be great in the Lord's sight... From his very birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, and he will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go ahead of the Lord, strong and mighty like the prophet Elijah. He will bring fathers and children together again; he will turn disobedient people back to the way of thinking of the righteous; he will get the Lord's people ready for him'. Zechariah said to the angel, 'How shall I know if this is so? I am an old man, and my wife is old also.' 'I am Gabriel,' the angel answered. 'I stand in the presence of God, who sent me to speak to you and tell you this good news. But you have not believed my message, which will come true at the right time. Because you have not believed, you will be unable to speak; you will remain silent until the day my promise to you comes true.' In the meantime the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondered why he was spending such a long time in the Temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them, and so they knew that he had seen a vision in the Temple. Unable to say a word, he made signs to theme with his hands....Some time later Elizabeth became pregnant.

Jot down some words as how you imagine Zechariah felt when the angel left him.

The following story from the New Testament is the story of the visit of the Angel Gabriel to Mary to announce the birth of Jesus. This is known as the annunciation.

The Birth of Jesus is Announced (Lk 1:26-38)

God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, 'Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!' Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her, 'Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus....' 'I am the Lord's servant,' said Mary; 'may it happen to me as you have said.' And the angel left her.

Reflection

I wonder what it was like for Mary when the angel left her? How she felt? What challenges she felt?

Write or draw how you think Mary felt and the challenges she faced after the angel left her?

This story describes Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth. Elizabeth lived far away in Judea and she was also pregnant. Remember she was the mother of John the Baptist. Mary set out on the journey to visit her cousin and share her news. This is the story of The Visitation. The following is taken from Luke's account in the New Testament.

Lk 1:39-45

Soon afterwards Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth said in a loud voice, 'You are the most blessed of all women and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should this great thing happen to me, that the Lord's mother comes to visit me? For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!'

Try to picture this meeting of Elizabeth and Mary. Jot down words or draw images that come to mind when you think of this meeting between these two women.

