SUNDAY GOSPEL STORIES · FOR SCHOOLS

Lead it yourselves

A class prayer planned and led by children · Fourth Sunday of Advent · Luke 1:26-38

GETTING READY

- Share out three jobs: **Leader**, **Reader** and **Prayer leader**.
- Set the prayer table: a purple cloth, the Bible open at Luke 1, and all four candles of your Advent wreath (battery candles are fine).
- The Reader practises the Gospel out loud once before you begin.

1 GATHER

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Christmas is almost here. We remember how Mary said yes to God. Let's be still and get ready to listen.

Light all four candles. Breathe slowly three times together.

2 LISTEN

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Read Luke 1:26-38 from the class Bible. Younger classes can watch the two-minute cartoon instead.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Keep a short silence. Sit still and let the story settle.

3 RESPOND

Leader: What question did Mary ask Gabriel? What do you think helped her trust God?

Two or three people share an idea. There are no wrong answers.

Prayer leader: God our Father, Mary said yes to you. We bring you our prayers.

- For families getting ready for Christmas, that they make room for Jesus. Lord, hear us.
  All: Lord, graciously hear us.
- For anyone who is afraid of what comes next, that they trust you like Mary did. Lord, hear us.
  All: Lord, graciously hear us.
- For our class, that we say yes when someone needs our help. Lord, hear us.
  All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Add a prayer of your own, written by your class.

All: God, thank you for Mary and her courage. Help us listen, ask our questions, and say yes to your love. Amen.

4 GO

Leader: This week, let's say yes to one way of helping someone get ready for Christmas.

Leader: Let us go in peace to welcome Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

Put out the candles.

AFTERWARDS: HOW DID IT GO?

- Did everyone who had a job feel ready?
- Was the silence really still?
- What one thing will we change next time?

For teachers: in Reception and Key Stage 1, an adult helps the children lead. In Key Stage 2, the children plan and lead it, and the adult joins in.