SUNDAY GOSPEL STORIES · FOR SCHOOLS

Lead it yourselves

A class prayer planned and led by children · The Immaculate Conception (Tuesday 8 December) · Luke 1:26-38

GETTING READY

- Share out three jobs: **Leader**, **Reader** and **Prayer leader**.
- Set the prayer table: a white or blue cloth, the Bible open at Luke 1, a picture or statue of Mary, and a candle (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 feast of the Immaculate Conception. We thank God for Mary, who was full of grace from the very start of her life. Let's be still and get ready to listen.

Light the candle. 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 surprised Mary about Gabriel's greeting? What do you think the word grace means?

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

Prayer leader: God our Father, you filled Mary with grace. We bring you our prayers.

- For mothers, and for everyone who looks after us. Lord, hear us.
  All: Lord, graciously hear us.
- For people who find it hard to trust God, that they know how much he loves them. Lord, hear us.
  All: Lord, graciously hear us.
- For our class, that we notice God's gifts in each other. Lord, hear us.
  All: Lord, graciously hear us.

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

Pray the Hail Mary together.

All: God, thank you for the grace you gave Mary. Help us notice your gifts and share your love with others. Amen.

4 GO

Leader: Today, let's thank someone for a gift they share with us.

Leader: Let us go in peace, with Mary, to share God's love.

All: Thanks be to God.

Put out the candle.

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.