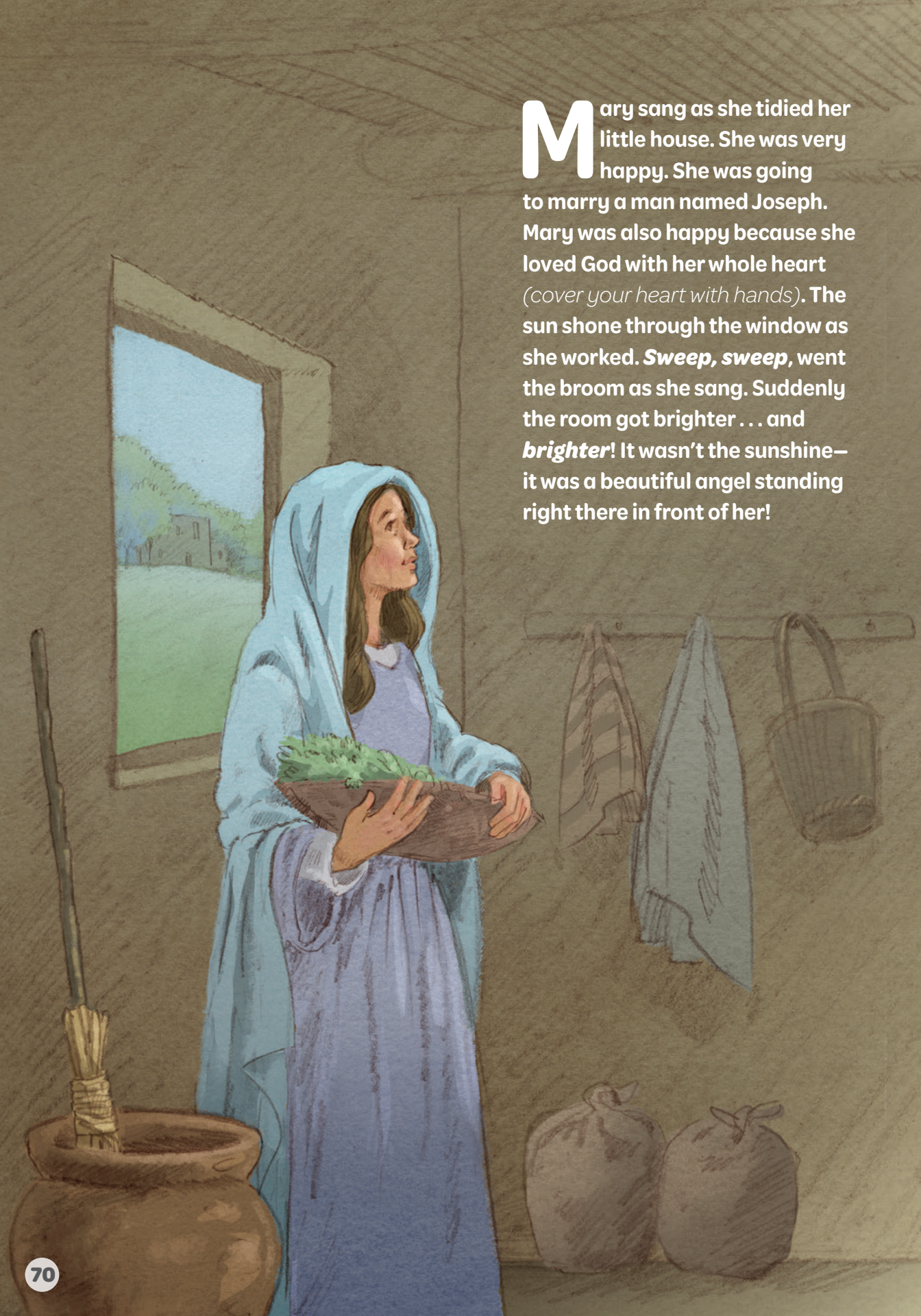
BIG IDEA: I can trust God.

Week 9

The Shining Angel



This lesson is based on Matthew 1:18-24 and Luke 1:26-38.



Mary sang as she tidied her little house. She was very happy. She was going to marry a man named Joseph. Mary was also happy because she loved God with her whole heart *(cover your heart with hands)*. The sun shone through the window as she worked. ***Sweep, sweep***, went the broom as she sang. Suddenly the room got brighter . . . and ***brighter***! It wasn't the sunshine—it was a beautiful angel standing right there in front of her!



Light swirled around the beautiful angel. *Shimmer, shimmer, shine.* Mary was so surprised! *(Surprised face.)* **The angel said gently, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus"** (Luke 1:30, 31, ICB)**. The shining angel told her that this baby would be very, *very* special. "He will be called the Son of God"** (Luke 1:35, ICB).



Mary smiled at the shining angel. She trusted God and His words that the angel spoke. Yes, she would be God's helper! She would be the mother of Baby Jesus, God's own Son! She ran to tell Joseph the news. He was very surprised too! *(Surprised face.)* **He scratched his head** *(scratch head)*. **He rubbed his chin** *(rub chin)*. **Was what Mary said really true?** *(Nod.)*

Joseph thought about the angel all day long. When the sun went down, he kept ***thinking . . . thinking . . . thinking*** . . . Finally, he shut his eyes and went to sleep *(sleep action)*. Suddenly, he saw an angel in his dreams. Light swirled around the beautiful angel. ***Shimmer, shimmer, shine.*** The angel had come to tell Joseph that it was true—Mary was going to have a baby, even though they weren't married yet! Joseph trusted God.



Mary rested her hand on her growing tummy and felt her baby move. She was so happy God had chosen her to be the mother of His Son, Baby Jesus! Joseph was happy too. He knew he could trust God. He would look after Jesus and be God's helper.

God sometimes chooses us for special jobs too. Like Mary, we can trust God and say "yes" when He asks us to do something for Him.

(Say together) **Thank You, God, for choosing us to be your helpers. I can trust You and say "yes" to You!**



play
Throughout the Day

Sing
Mary was so happy she sang praises to God. As you go about your work this week, make a special effort to sing praises to God out loud. Learn some new songs about Baby Jesus or ask your child for their favorite songs as you do your work.

Play
Act out the story with your child. You might like to use finger puppets made from cardboard or printed from the Internet.

Connect
The angel came to bring the good news to Mary that the Savior of the world would come. You too can share the good news! Think of someone you may like to post a letter to in the mail; someone who needs to hear the good news of Jesus! Together with your child, make a card and decorate it, sharing the joy of Baby Jesus. Mail it together.

Learn
Share with your child about angels and how they help God. Explain to your child that they have their very own angel who helps to guide and protect them. Imagine that an angel appeared in your home. What would you see and hear? What would your reaction be?

Pray
Thank God for the angel's visit to Mary and for her trusting heart. Ask God to help each person in your family trust Him.



THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For You, Parents

Imagine for a moment that you've been chosen to parent the God of the universe. What would your response be? What would the days, weeks, and months look like after hearing the news?

Mary is such an inspiring young person of faith. She was an ordinary, humble girl doing ordinary and humble things. Then an angel appeared and her whole life trajectory was changed in an instant. And after she heard the news, her response was "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Later she sang her praises to God: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name" (Luke 1:46-49).

Mary responded with *worship*—not *worry*. Her heart overflowed with praise. She didn't doubt her calling; she embraced it! She said yes to God, despite her fears and her failings. She trusted God's purpose for her life.

Jesus offers the same invitation to us. He desires to dwell in us. He has given us our own unique purpose. We can respond with worry or worship.

God still calls people like Mary and Joseph today. In this busy season may you respond to Jesus' invitation and say "yes" to His calling for your life—first, as a parent who guides your child to know and love Jesus, and to whatever else He may be asking you to do. And may your song, as was Mary's, be "For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name" (Luke 1:49).