QUEST 1: MESSAGES FROM ANGELS (LUKE 1:26–33; MATTHEW 1:18–21)

KEY AIMS

• To explore the promise of God’s forever King.
• To understand that being part of God’s plan is sometimes difficult.

What You Need

+ Clue cards
+ Angel template
+ Activity leaflets
+ Battery powered tea light
+ Optional - Treasure Chest and Treasure Scroll
+ Optional - Spire of Light
+ Optional - Angel templates for the craft
+ Optional - equipment for your chosen game

THEME SONG

Option – play the Guardians of Ancora theme song (mp3 or video) to bring everyone together. The video can be found on the Multimedia links document in the Appendix.

OPENING ACTIVITY

On page 3 and 4 you will find 8 clue cards and a template of an angel. By turning the cards over one at a time, participants will try to guess what the clue cards are talking about. Place the clue cards and the angel template face down on the table and give one participant the opportunity to turn one card over, read the clue and try to guess what it is. Continue turning the cards over until someone guesses the answer - an angel. Then turn the angel over. Explain that today the Bible story is about angels and their special messages for Mary and Joseph.

OPENING PRAYER

Thank God for His Word that helps us to learn more about God and His Son, Jesus.

READ - Luke 1:26–38

Read Mary’s story aloud in the way that is suitable for your family members.

Option – play the Guardians of Ancora video of this story. The video can be found on the Multimedia links document in the Appendix.

TALK ABOUT IT

Once you have finished, encourage the children to think about how Mary might have felt after she had been visited by the angel.

READ - Matthew 1:18–25

Read Joseph’s story aloud in the way that is suitable for your family members.

TALK ABOUT IT

Talk about how Joseph might have felt both before and after he had been visited by the angel. Spend a few moments wondering what is happening here. Why did God send the angel? Could God have chosen another way to give his message? What can we learn about Jesus and God from how God spoke and what he said and did?
DIG A LITTLE DEEPER
Take time to complete the activity sheets. (There is one for younger and one for older children.) When everyone has finished, find out what word is in the grey area of the puzzle and explain that Nazareth was where Mary and Joseph lived. Then compare the expressions on the younger activity sheet. Go back to the passage and allow everyone to say what they think was most surprising.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?
Remind everyone what the angel says about Jesus. Encourage everyone to say what this tells them about who Jesus is and what he will do Option - Write your comments and thoughts on the Treasure Scroll. Then roll it up and place it in the Treasure Chest.

PRAY TOGETHER
Use a battery powered tea light each day for your prayer together time. Turn the light on and pass it around to each family member as they pray. Option - after praying you could add the tea light to the Spire of Light.

Explain to the family that each day you will spend some time praying together. Give them time to think about what they would like to pray or talk to Jesus about after hearing the story about the message from angels. Explain that you are going to pass the light around and that it will be their turn to pray when they get the light. Also, explain that if they don't want to pray out loud they can pass it on to the next person. To begin, hold the light, pray, and then pass it on to the next person until everyone has an opportunity to pray.

CRAFT
Option – ‘Make an Angel’ - see below

GAME
Option – choose a game from the games in the Appendix

THEME SONG
Option – play the Guardians of Ancora theme song (mp3 or video) to finish your time together. The video can be found on the Multimedia links document in the Appendix

CRAFT
MAKE AN ANGEL

SUPPLIES
• Copies of the angel template used in the opening activity
• Metallic paper (rolls of shiny gift wrap would be ideal)
• Felt-tip markers
• Cotton balls or yarn
• Scissors and glue

DIRECTIONS
Give each participant and angel template (and help them cut it out if needed). Invite them to decorate the angel with the metallic paper, commenting that in the Bible, angels are often described as shining beings. Encourage them to draw a face and stick on cotton balls for hair. As everyone works on their angel talk about today's story. How would they feel if they were an angel and what would they do? How would they feel if they saw an angel or had a dream about one?
1 We are bright and shiny.

2 Although we might look it, we are not human.

3 We like singing.

4 When we meet people, we usually say, "Do not be afraid."
6 We take messages from God to people.

7 Some of us have names — one of those is Gabriel.

8 You might have been one of us in a Christmas play.

5 We sometimes appear to be flying, sometimes we walk!
In a dream, Joseph is about to get a special visitor!

This is how Jesus Christ was born. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David’s family. But before they were married, she learned that she was going to have a baby by God’s Holy Spirit.

Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding.

While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”
How do you think Mary felt as she saw the angel and listened to what he had to say?

Draw in Mary’s face to show what you think!

How do you think Joseph felt when he woke from his very strange dream?

Draw in Joseph’s face to show how he felt!
ACTIVITY

FILL IN THE BOXES TO REVEAL THE WORD IN GRAY!
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What this tells us about who Jesus is and what he will do.