

Find Hope in the Child

(HOPE)

Jesus
brings
us hope.

Scripture Words

The angels said, "Don't be afraid,
Mary."—Luke 1:30 adapted

We can have hope.
—Romans 15:4 YB

Here We Come!

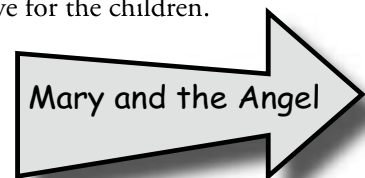
As the children arrive, let them tell you about their hopes and expectations for the Christmas season. Focus on the enthusiasm we feel and express when we are hopeful.

Scripture Words and Worship

Print the Luke scripture on pictures of an angel and Mary. Print the Romans scripture on a rainbow. Share both scriptures in an interesting way. Use the Luke scripture to lead into the story.

Live and Learn

For children in this age group, the Christmas story and all its wonder is new and exciting. Some are hearing it for the first time, and others have only heard it two or three times. Use dressed dolls, flannelgraph, nativity figures, picture books, videos, and any other tool that will help the story come alive for the children.



Up and at 'Em

Use Christmas music as background for activity. Children can march to the music or play rhythm instruments along with the song. Choose music the children will hear in the worship service.

Mary and the Angel

- Mary was busy doing things around her house in Nazareth.
- She was making the bed, but she had done that before.
- She was cooking breakfast, but she had done that before.
- Mary was about to get a surprise.
- And after the surprise came, she would do something new she had never done before.
- Mary was going to be a mother!
- One day Mary had a visitor.
- It wasn't her neighbor. It wasn't her mother or father. It wasn't anyone Mary had ever seen before.
- It was an angel.
- Mary didn't know what to do or what to say. She had never seen an angel before.
- The angel smiled at Mary. "Don't be afraid," the angel said. "I have good news for you.
- Something wonderful is going to happen."
- Mary was glad to hear that. She loved wonderful things.
- She had a whole list of wonderful things she hoped would happen.
- But Mary was surprised to hear what the angel had to say.
- "Mary, you are going to have a baby. He will be a very special baby," the angel said.
- Mary was excited. She had never had a baby before.
- She wondered what she should name the baby.
- But the angel had an answer for her.
- "You will name your baby, Jesus," the angel said.
- "Jesus will be great, God's very special son."
- Mary could hardly believe her ears.
- She had always hoped God would send someone special to Earth.
- People needed someone to teach them how to be kind and loving.
- Mary was so happy she began to sing. Baby Jesus was coming!

Sense-ations

Use the pattern in the Patterns section to create an angel. Make a copy for each child, and have the angel shapes cut before class starts. Let the children add color to their angels. Bring the two points together and fasten in the back to make a cone-shaped angel that will stand up.



Moving Music

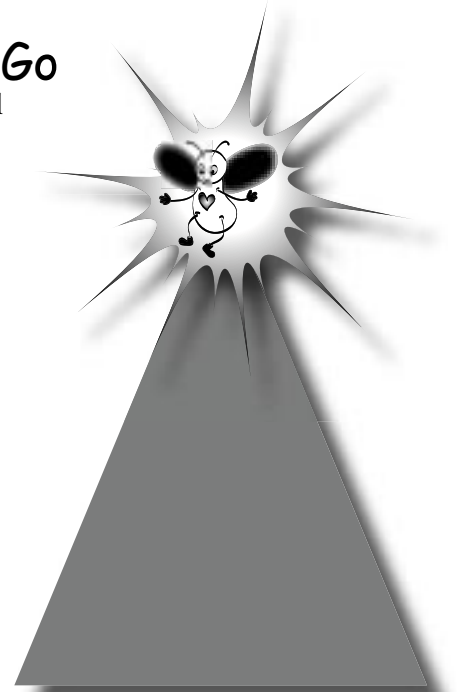
- "Away in a Manger"
- "Jesus Loves Me"

Story Talking

Hope makes us happy. When we have hope, we look forward to something. We are excited. Let the children help you decorate the room for the holiday season. Connect the decorations to the story of the birth of Jesus.

There We Go

Let the children retell the story of the angel visiting Mary. Encourage them to share the story with family.





An angel came to tell Mary a wonderful secret. Baby Jesus was coming soon. Mary was very surprised. _____ is happy about Jesus' birthday, too.
(child's name)