

THE VISITATION

Unit DLY3: Luke 1: 26-38

YOU WILL NEED

- Basket, Bible, book stand, candle
- Beige felt underlay
- Brown felt road
- 3D figures:
 - Mary
 - Elizabeth

PREPARATION - Invite the children to enter the storytelling space, have them seated in a semicircle, ready to listen to the story. Ensure that all materials are prepared in a basket and that a Bible is in close proximity, elevated off the floor on a book stand.

TELLING THE STORY - Story is a key part of our faith tradition. Young children, with their capacity for intuitive learning, are particularly able to find meaning through story.

Hold the Bible in your hands...

This story comes from our Sacred Scripture, the Bible. We find this story in the New Testament, in the Gospel of Luke, so we know that this story is centered on the life and teachings of Jesus and the early Christian community. Because this story is from the Bible we will light the candle as we listen to the story.

Place the Bible back on the stand.

Lay underlay and then the road. Place Mary on the road near you. Place Elizabeth at the opposite end of the underlay, to the side of the road. Move Mary along the road as you say:

Mary left her home in Nazareth and travelled in haste to the hill country of Judea. She was going to visit her relative, Elizabeth who lived with her husband, Zechariah.

Move Mary off the road just a little way and say:

Upon entering the house of Zechariah, Mary greeted Elizabeth.

Move Elizabeth towards Mary.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby within her moved.

Place your hand over Mary as you say:

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth exclaimed, "Mary, blessed are you among women! And blessed is the baby growing within you!"

Place your hand behind Elizabeth as you say:

"I cannot believe that the mother of my Lord would visit me!"

Place your hand over Mary's head and say:

"Blessed are you Mary, because you believed the angel's message and you faithfully trust in God!"

WONDERING - Following the story, “I wonder” statements engage children with the story and invite reflection. Wondering together teaches the art of dialogue, of listening to others, accepting and learning from others’ ideas and contributions.

Sit back, pause for a moment, look up at students, and then wonder about the story together.

I wonder...

- why Mary would have gone to visit her relative, Elizabeth
- why Elizabeth’s baby moved when Mary greets Elizabeth
- how Elizabeth knew Mary was going to have such a special child
- what the women talked about
- if you find anything puzzling or amazing in this story

Carefully pack the story materials back into your basket. Ensure that children are watching so they know how to pack the materials away should they choose to engage with the story during exploring.

EXPLORING - Provide an opportunity for individual/small group exploration in order to respond to the story. This provides students with time to focus on and explore the story or aspects of it, which have significance for them. For this reason, students choose from a variety of material and types of work. This is an opportunity for students to respond to what they have heard in whatever way they choose, it should be seen as an prayerful opportunity for dialogue between the student and God.

PRAYER - Conclude the session with prayer. Children come closer to God through the experience of prayer. Teachers help students to pray by praying with them, providing a variety of prayer experiences. These may include laying of hands over students' works, spontaneous prayer, prayer related to the Scripture, prayers found in KWL, informal or formal prayers, or a hymn.

Carefully pack story materials back into your basket. Ensure that children are watching so they know how to pack the materials away and where to find them.