## The Wonder of Jesus' Birth

Narrator: One day, God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman named Mary, who lived in the city of Nazareth.

Angel: "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary (worried): "What does this mean?

Angel: "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Mary: "How will this be, since I'm a virgin?"

Angel: "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

Mary: "I am the Lord's servant, may your word to me be fulfilled."

Narrator: Shortly after the angel left her, Mary went to see her cousin, Elizabeth. When Mary greeted Elizabeth, the Holy Spirit filled Elizabeth and gave her this message.

Elizabeth: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Mary: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name."

Narrator: Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and then returned to Nazareth.