



Mary & Joseph Say 'Yes' to God!

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, she said 'yes' to what God wanted her to do. And she didn't just say 'yes' once—her whole life was a 'yes' to God. This lesson teaches children that God invites them to say 'yes' to Him every day, too.

Warm Up Activity: The 'YES' Jar!

You will need:

- A jar with a lid. The jar has the word YES on it in big letters.
- Folded slips of paper with Christmas challenges on them. (*See the list below or create your own.*)
- A time keeper with a stopwatch for some challenges
- Some challenges require props, so go through the list and gather the props you need.

What to do:

- Challenge the children, 'Inside this YES Jar are exciting challenges! Who's brave enough to reach in and pull one out? But remember—there's one important rule: because it's the YES Jar, you *must* say YES to whatever challenge you choose. No backing out, no saying no... just a bold YES!
- Give the jar a big shake between challenges.

20 Christmas 'YES' Challenges for Kids

1. Wear a Christmas bow on your head for 10 minutes.
2. Sing a verse of "Joy to the World" in your silliest voice.
3. Decorate yourself like a Christmas tree using tinsel.
4. Wear mismatched Christmas socks and show them off for 20 minutes.
5. Pretend to be a gingerbread cookie and freeze in a silly pose.
6. Do your best reindeer impression—antlers, hooves, and all.
7. Walk like an Egyptian across the room.
8. Make up a cheer about Jesus' birth and perform it.
9. Walk around like a candle—slow and glowing—for 1 minute.
10. Wear mittens and try to unwrap a gift (a wrapped shoebox will do).
11. Balance a candy cane on your nose for 10 seconds.
12. Gambol like a sheep and baa.
13. Strike your best angel pose and hold it while someone counts to 20.

14. Wrap yourself in wrapping paper and say, "I'm God's gift!"
15. Flap your arms like a dove and say something kind to someone.
16. Pretend you're the angel Gabriel and announce good news in a dramatic voice.
17. Mime baking cookies and giving them as a gift.
18. Do a camel walk across the room while humming "We Three Kings."
19. Nod your head and rub your belly at the same time.
20. Be the star of Bethlehem—stand tall and spin slowly while saying "Follow me to Jesus!"

Bible Lesson: The Birth Announcement of Jesus the Messiah

Bible References: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

Visuals You Will Need:

1. Child and the word YES
2. Mary
3. Gabriel and Mary
4. Mary asks a question
5. Mary and the word YES
6. Joseph dreams
7. Joseph and the word YES
8. a) a child holding a love heart
b) a child and a map
c) a child showing muscles
d) a child jumping for joy

Words

1. Let's talk about what it felt like to say 'YES' today.
How did you feel when you agreed to put your hand in the 'YES' Jar?
Were you a little nervous?
Did you secretly hope your challenge would be easy?
Did you wonder if it might make you look a bit silly?
Saying 'YES' can feel risky—especially when we don't know what's coming.
That's why it's important to trust the person who's asking.
You said 'YES' today because you trust me, your Children's Church leader.
You know I care about you, and your parents trust me too.
I would never ask you to do anything that would hurt you or make you feel unsafe.
But saying 'YES' to someone you don't know—or someone who doesn't love you— isn't safe.

2. Our Bible lesson is about a young lady who said 'YES' to God.
God sent the angel Gabriel to a town named Nazareth, to a young maiden.
She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David.
Her name was Mary.
The angel came to her and said, 'Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you.'
But Mary was very startled by his words and wondered what this greeting might mean.
3. The angel said to her, 'Don't be afraid, Mary; God has shown you His grace.
Listen! You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name 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 King David, His ancestor.
He will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will never end.'
4. Mary asked the angel, 'How will this happen? I am not married to Joseph yet.'
The angel said to Mary, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you.
For this reason the baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God.'
5. And Mary said... 'YES'!
Well, actually, she said, 'I am the servant of the Lord.
Let this happen to me as you say!'
Then the angel went away.
Mary said 'YES' because she trusted God.
6. Remember that Mary is engaged?
The man she is engaged to is named Joseph.
He found out that Mary was pregnant and he knows the baby is not his.
Joseph planned to divorce Mary quietly, trying to protect her from shame.
But then, an angel appears to him in a dream and says,
'Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife.
She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus.'
7. Joseph woke up and said... 'YES'.
He didn't argue or delay.
He married Mary.
Joseph said YES because he trusted God.
8. You need to learn to say 'YES' to God, too.
Why?
 - a) **Because God Loves You First**
God isn't a stranger—He's your Creator and your Heavenly Father.
He knows your name, your heart, and your dreams.
Saying 'YES' to Him is saying 'YES' to love.
(*'We love because He first loved us.'* 1 John 4:19)

b) Because God's Plans Are Good

God never asks you to do something evil or wrong.

His plans help you grow strong, kind, and brave.

Even when it's hard, He walks with you.

(‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord...Jeremiah 29:11)

c) Because Saying YES Builds Trust

Every time you say ‘YES’ to God, your heart gets stronger.

You learn to hear His voice and follow His lead.

Like Mary and Joseph, you become part of God's story.

d) Because Saying YES Leads to Joy

Saying ‘yes’ to God might mean helping someone, forgiving, sharing, or worshipping.

These things bring real joy—not just fun, but deep happiness.

God's ‘YES’ path is full of surprises and blessings.

Ministry to the Children:

God asked Jesus to leave heaven and to come to the earth, and Jesus said, ‘YES’. At Christmas, people think of Jesus as that baby in the manger, but Jesus grew into a man. He lived His life here on earth without sinning. He was crucified on the Cross when He was 33 years old. God asked Him to die for the sins of the world, and Jesus said, ‘YES’. Why? Because He loves you! And so that you could have all your sins forgiven because Jesus took your sins on Himself and died for them. God raised Jesus from the dead, and Jesus has returned to His throne in Heaven. But He is waiting to hear a ‘YES’ from you!

‘YES’ I believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

‘YES’ I believe that Jesus died for my sins.

‘YES’ I believe that God raised Jesus from the dead.

‘YES’ I want to receive Jesus into my life, and live for Him from now on.

‘YES’ I will live for Him and obey Him.

Memory Verse: Luke 11:28

‘Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.’

(A woman in the crowd around Jesus called out, ‘Jesus, You are so wonderful that Your mother must be a very blessed woman.’ Jesus pointed out that anyone who hears the word of God and keeps it is more blessed in their relationship with God than Jesus and His lovely Mum.)

Follow the Star

You will need:

- A large star
- A volunteer to hold the star high for the children to follow
- The words of the Memory Verse written or typed out and hidden around the room

What to do:

- Hide the words of the Memory Verse around the room (make sure your volunteer knows where they are!)
- The volunteer holds the star up high and asks the children to 'Follow the star!' to different areas to find the hidden words of the Memory Verse
- The volunteer can hop, tiptoe, or skip to the area, and the children must do everything they do!

Game: Yes or No Challenge

You will need:

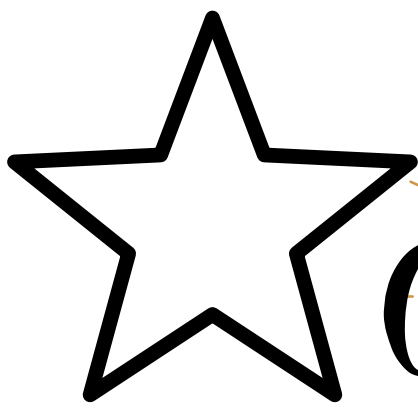
- A line taped down the middle of your game space
- A YES sign taped on one side of the line
- A NO sign taped on the other side of the line
- A 'caller' to call out YES or NO

What to do:

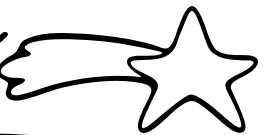
- The children line up on the YES side of the tape
- The caller calls out YES and NO in any order and can speed up
- The children must obey the caller and jump to the YES side of the line or the NO side of the line
- Whoever falls or jumps on the wrong word is OUT!

Craft: Christmas Star Decoration

- Photocopy page 6 onto thin white cardboard, one for every child.
- Colour the 'I say YES to God' star.
- Add decorations like stickers or glitter
- Cut out the star to put on a Christmas Tree, or children may like to keep it in their Bible as a reminder to say 'YES' to God!

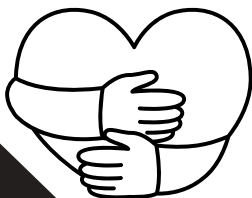


Merry Christmas

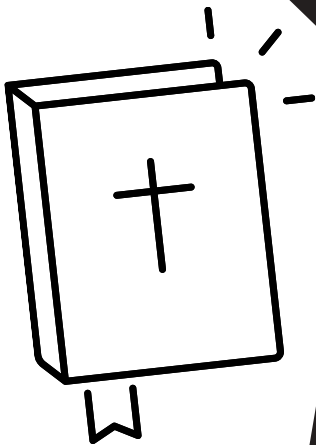
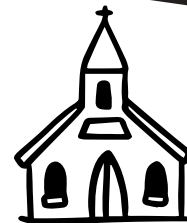


Use the points of the star
as a reminder to...

- ☆ help someone who is hurting
- ☆ pray for a friend or family member
- ☆ share the love of Jesus
- ☆ forgive someone mean
- ☆ worship with joy and gratitude



I Say
YES
to God!



Colour, decorate, cut out .