


## UNIT 2: JESUS AND THE NEW COVENANT

### THE PROMISED ONE COMES

### Lesson 6: God Acts... Mary Says Yes!

#### CONTENT:

1. God sent the angel Gabriel to announce the coming of his Son, a king forever.
2. Mary would conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. Mary, proclaiming herself God's servant, responded with faith and obedience. Thus she reversed Eve's action and brought life to the world.
4. God chose to act through Mary's free cooperation.
-  5. He also waits for our 'yes' to receive him and cooperate with his plan for us.

ASSIGNMENT: Read the Angelus again and try and memorise it.

REFERENCES: CCC 488, 494.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts; blackboard.

#### I. STARTER:

- Have you ever been involved in putting up in a play or drama? You know how much time and effort goes into it before the actual day. First of all you have to get a good play, or write the script yourself. A lot of people have to work hard, some preparing the actors, some painting the stage sets or making props; you may have to get funds for the show by selling tickets or getting donations.
- We have come at last to the big moment of history. Doing the job of playwright, producer, director, and stage-manager, God had written the script for the drama and done all that was necessary to get things ready. The stage was set, everything was in place and now we come to 'Act One' in the story of God's Salvation. What event do you think I am talking about? [*The visit of the angel to Mary, known as the 'Annunciation'*]

#### II. DEVELOPMENT:

- We find the story of the annunciation in the Gospel of Luke. Today it is up to you to discover whatever you can from the passage.

[Give out handouts at this point]

1. First, see how much you can observe about Mary from the passage. Make a note of 2 things:

- i] Facts: See what facts are given about names, places, people etc.
- ii] Feelings: Watch out for Mary's feelings, thoughts, her inner nature as you read the story.

2. After this observe what the passage tells us about God: How does God act? What did he do? What was the role of Father, Son, Holy Spirit?

[Students sit in groups of 3. They do exercise [1]

- At first they work silently, on their own, for 10 to 15 minutes, writing down what they observe.

- Then they share with the others in their group and add anything they have missed.

- The teacher then reviews the answers, allowing each group to give one new point at a time. (Don't allow them to give all the points each time. This will take up too much time.)

- Once again, students can add any additional points to their handouts. If the space is insufficient, they can write on the reverse of the page.]

- SOME OF THE POINTS THAT COULD COME OUT:

<b>ABOUT MARY</b>	
<p><b>FACTS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mary lived in Nazareth in Galilee.</li> <li>2. She was visited by the Angel Gabriel.</li> <li>3. She was engaged to be married.</li> <li>4. Her fiancé's name was Joseph.</li> <li>5. He came from the family of King David.</li> <li>6. Mary was a virgin.</li> <li>7. Her elderly relative, Elisabeth was 6 month's pregnant.</li> </ol>	<p><b>FEELINGS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's greeting.</li> <li>2. She felt confused. (Did not understand how things would happen)</li> <li>3. She was afraid. (We know this because the angel told her not to be afraid)</li> <li>4. She was a simple and direct person. (She asked a direct question to the angel.)</li> <li>5. She was humble. (Called herself a servant)</li> <li>6. She believed the 'unbelievable' thing the angel told her.</li> <li>7. She was ready to cooperate with God.</li> </ol>
<p><b>ABOUT GOD</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God had blessed Mary and he was with her.</li> <li>2. He was about to send his Son to be born through Mary.</li> <li>3. He wanted his son to be known by the name of Jesus.</li> <li>4. Jesus was a king whose kingdom would last forever.</li> <li>5. The child would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.</li> <li>6. God chose to act with Mary's free cooperation.</li> </ol>	

- At the beginning of the class I said that this story is the first act of the drama. Some people would say that this incident was still at the character-casting stage. God had chosen Mary to be one of the star characters in the play, but he first waited for her 'yes'. It was after she said yes that the Holy Spirit came and Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb.
- Mary's yes was a most important one for us all. There is an ancient saying in the Church, **"Death through Eve, life through Mary."** When Eve said 'no' to God, death entered our world. When Mary said 'yes', she made the way for Jesus, our Life-giver.

*[Students write in [2]]*

### III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- A 'yes' to God has very important results. Let's close our eyes for a moment and thank Mary for her yes that brought life to us. Let us also ask her to pray for us to be able to say yes to God as he asks us to cooperate with him... Let us now say the Angelus together as we picture the drama that brought Jesus into the world.

*[Students stand and pray [3].]*

**Home assignment:** Memorise the 'Angelus'.