

# *TEACHER'S NOTES*

6 year olds	<b>OUR HEAVENLY FATHER</b>
Chapter 9	<b>Mary Hears Some Wonderful</b>
Lesson 1	<b>Mary, Full of Grace</b>

## **AIMS**

1. Children will begin to understand how God prepared Mary for the Saviour by keeping her free from Original Sin from the very first moment of her life.
2. They will know that Mary never sinned; she was always pleasing to God.

## **STEP 1**

Briefly review the outline of salvation history that the children have learned thus far. Tell them that from the sin of Adam and Eve until the last prophet, St John the Baptist, God continually prepare people for the coming of the Saviour. There was one more thing that God needed to do before the Saviour came. He planned to send His Son into the world as a baby. The baby needed a mother. Ask the children if they know who the mother of Jesus is. Tell them that today they will learn about how God prepared Mary to be the mother of the Saviour.

## **STEP 2**

Read the special paragraphs from the children's pack aloud with the children. Then tell them that God prepared Mary for the birth of the Saviour in the most careful and special way. When he promised to send a Saviour, many years before, God had the Saviour's mother in mind: Mary. He wanted the mother of His Son to be perfect in every way.

## **STEP 3**

Remind the children that the children of Adam and Eve had Original Sin on their souls, and that they did not have grace because Adam had lost the gift of grace for everyone. But it would not be right for the mother of God to be soiled in any way, so God gave Mary a wonderful gift: at the first moment of her life, God kept her from having Original Sin on her soul. He gave to her what Adam had lost for everyone - His life, the life of grace.

## **STEP 4**

Read the second special paragraph from the children's pack aloud with the children. Tell them that Mary's soul was "full of grace." When Mary first began to live, hidden in the womb of a mother, St Anne, her soul was as spotless as though she had been baptised at that very moment. No other human person has ever received this special gift. In fact, there is a special word to describe Mary's soul: it was immaculate; Mary is called the Immaculate Conception. Ask the children if they know the meaning of this word: help them to understand that means pure and spotless..

## **STEP 5**

Mary was the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne. They were waiting for the Saviour and preparing for His coming prayerfully and obediently. They raised Mary to be a loving, obedient and faithful young woman. They all live together in a town called Nazareth.

## **STEP 6**

Mary did not know that she was to be the mother of the Saviour. Like many other people of her day, she was waiting patiently preparing well for the Saviour. Mary did not have the Original Sin on her soul: she never sinned. Because she was filled with grace, everything she did make one happy.

### **STEP 7**

Tell the children the story of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Immaculate Conception. In 1858 Our Lady appeared to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubiroux in Lourdes, France. As she was crossing the River Gave, Bernadette saw a beautiful lady standing above in the hollow of a rock. The Bishop didn't believe Bernadette and he ordered her to ask the lady her name. Bernadette did as she was told by the Bishop and the lady answered, "I am the Immaculate Conception." The bishop knew that Bernadette was a poor girl and had no knowledge of such matters so he knew the lady must be the Queen of Heaven. A miraculous spring appeared at the spot Our Lady appeared, which even today sometimes cures the sick who visit it. The feast of our Lady of Lourdes is February 11.

### **STEP 8**

Ask the children to turn to the We Pray section of their packs and have them begin learning the "Hail Mary." Concentrate on the first line: "Hail Mary, full of grace!"

Teach the song "Immaculate Mary," *Adoremus Hymnal*, #532. Remind the children that "immaculate" means spotless and pure.

### **CONCLUDE**

Set the children the exercise in their packs, "Fill in the blanks of the Hail Mary."

### **PREVIEW**

In the next lesson, we will learn how Mary came to be the mother of the Saviour