

The Annunciation

Planting Seeds of Love and Faith

Needed:

something to contain the plant —
a flowerpot or paper cup with
a hole punched in the bottom
potting soil
seeds — at least 3
a plastic spoon to use as a shovel
water
newspaper



Put a piece of newspaper on your desk to keep it clean.
Take a container and fill it with potting soil until it is almost full.
Place at least 3 seeds on the soil.
Cover the seeds with a little more soil.
Water carefully — not too much!

Take your plant home and care for it. Give it water when the soil seems to be drying out, but do not overwater it. Place it on a sunny window ledge and watch it grow. When your plant is a few inches tall, you might want to transplant it outside.

Watching plants grow is a nice activity. It makes you feel good to see something grow, making leaves and flowers. You feel you have done something right if the plant grows well.



The Story of Mary, a Girl Who Said Yes to God

Anne and Joachim looked at the new little baby girl they had. Their hearts filled with love.

"I must go to the temple and thank God for answering our prayers. All these years we have wanted a child. We have prayed and prayed. At last God has answered our prayers. I will go and thank him," said Joachim.

"Yes," said Anne. "God has been very good to us. He has

heard our prayers and he has answered them. Now we have a child at long last.”

“We shall call her Mary. And we will dedicate her to the Lord for without God’s help she would have never been born.” Joachim reminded Anne of a promise they had made to God a long time ago. They had promised to help their child become someone who would always love God and do God’s will.

They did not forget their promise. They taught Mary to love and trust God. They told Mary that their faith in God’s love had been proven by her being born. They taught Mary to believe in God’s love. They taught her to do what God would want her to do.

Mary grew up to be a fine young woman. It was arranged that she would marry Joseph. In those days that is how people were married. But first Mary and Joseph would be betrothed. It is like being engaged. Everyone would know that Joseph and Mary were going to be married soon.

One night Mary had a special visitor. An angel of God came to her.

“Hello, Mary,” said the angel. “Don’t be afraid. God loves you very much. God has sent me to tell you that you are going to have a baby. It will be a boy and you will name him Jesus. He will be known as the Son of God. He will be the leader of the people God chooses to love forever.”

Mary wanted to obey God and have the baby, but she had a question. “How can I have a baby? I am not married.”

The angel said that God would make it happen. He told her that God could do anything; even things that seemed impossible to people. He told her that her cousin Elizabeth, who was too old to have a baby even though she wanted one very much, was now going to have a baby because God willed it. God had chosen to answer Elizabeth’s prayers.

Mary knew she must do God’s will. She knew she must obey God. Her parents had always taught her that. She remembered that her parents had dedicated her to God and that she belonged to God. She told the angel, “I accept God’s will. I belong to him.”

The angel went away and Mary knew she would have a baby boy just as the angel had told her.

Mary was an ordinary girl. But she did something that was very extraordinary. She responded to God’s gift of love by allowing herself to be the mother of God’s Son Jesus. She chose to say yes to God when he asked her to do that for him.

My Seeds Grow

Children are like soil in a flowerpot. Parents put seeds of love and faith in their children and watch them grow. Parents are happy when their children grow up to be the kind of people the parents wanted their children to be.

Our heavenly Father God is happy when we grow up to be the kind of people he wants us to be.

What kinds of seeds are growing in you? Seeds of kindness, love, and faith? Seeds of helpfulness and caring? Seeds of politeness and good manners? Write what kinds of seeds are growing in you on the leaves of this plant.

