

Chapter 11

The Promised Savior Comes

CHAPTER SUMMARY

In the fullness of time, God’s plan to send a Savior was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary telling her that through the power of the Holy Spirit, she would be the Mother of God. We call this announcement the Annunciation. Mary’s yes to God gave hope to the world. Mary is our Mother in Heaven, and Mary will lead us to her Son. Mary is the Mother of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus heals us and leads us to Heaven.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (CCC) REFERENCES

Mary has faith in God and trusts Him: 494, 511

Mary is the Mother of God: 495

The Incarnation is the fulfillment of God’s plans: 112

Jesus is the hoped-for Messiah: 436

Jesus is fully God and fully man: 464

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

Read and reflect on the following paragraph from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Consider especially the preparations God made long before the announcement of the coming of Jesus. The way God saved us was not accidental, but came from His perfect wisdom. It was the very best way to save us and to help us know His trustworthiness and love.

Throughout the Old Covenant the mission of many holy women *prepared* for that of Mary. At the very beginning

there was Eve; despite her disobedience, she receives the promise of a posterity that will be victorious over the evil one, as well as the promise that she will be the mother of all the living (cf. Genesis 3:15, 20). By virtue of this promise, Sarah conceives a son in spite of her old age (cf. Genesis 18:10–14; 21:1–2). Against all human expectation God chooses those who were considered powerless and weak to show forth his faithfulness to his promises.... Mary “stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord, who confidently hope for and receive salvation from him. After a long period of waiting the times are fulfilled in her, the exalted Daughter of Sion, and the new plan of salvation is established” (*Lumen Gentium*, 55).¹ (CCC 489)

Think of a time when God exceeded your expectations. How did that make you feel?

Why do you sometimes find it difficult to wait for God to make clear what He is planning?

God is overly generous with His plans to save us. Is it ever difficult to accept being loved so much?

How can you cooperate better with God’s plan for your life, which ultimately is to get you to Heaven?

¹*Lumen Gentium* is Vatican Council II’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (November 21, 1964).

Chapter 11: The Promised Savior Comes	Focus 1: Let's Learn about God's Word: Luke 1:26–38	Focus 2: Say Yes to God	Focus 3: Our Mother in Heaven	Focus 4: Jesus Our Savior
Materials Materials needed for the Optional Activities can be found on page 110 of the Parish Catechist Manual.	Bible, crayons, pencils			
Chapter Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will identify the Savior as Jesus, the Son of God. • Students will identify Mary as the Mother of God. • Students will practice listening and responding to God like Mary. • Students will begin to understand that Mary leads us to Jesus. • Students will begin to understand that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises. 			
Preparation <i>Let's Prepare Our Hearts</i>	Prepare Our Hearts Song Opening Prayer in Student Text <i>Additional options:</i> Option 1: <i>Lectio Divina:</i> Luke 1:38  Option 2: Sacred Art: <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i> , Charles Bosseron Chambers  Option 3: Bible Fun! Activity: Luke 1:38			
Proclamation <i>Let's Proclaim the Good News</i>	Mary said yes to God's plan of love.			
Explanation <i>Let's Learn about Our Faith</i>	Focus 1: The Angel Gabriel came to tell Mary about God's plan that she would be the Mother of the Savior.  Focus 2: Mary believed God and said yes to His plan of love to bring Jesus, our Savior, into the world. She believed and trusted God. Focus 3: By saying yes to God's plan for her life, Mary found true happiness on earth and now is our Mother in Heaven. Focus 4: Jesus is our Savior. God the Father kept His promises and sent His Son to be with us.			
Application <i>Let's Live Our Faith</i>	<i>Choose one or more of the following:</i> Option 1: Sharing God's Plan of Love Option 2: Our Holy Friends: Mary			
Celebration <i>Let's Celebrate Our Faith</i>	Unit Prayer: Our Father Optional Song: "Immaculate Mary"			

Chapter 11

The Promised Savior Comes

 “Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.’” (Luke 1:38)



Let's Pray

Dear God, You were faithful to Your promise. You sent Jesus, our Savior, into the world. Help us always be faithful to You. Thank You for becoming one of us to save us. Amen.



Let's Proclaim the Good News

Mary said yes to God's plan of love.

A plan helps us know what we are doing.

Chapter 11 81

Let's Prepare Our Hearts

Turn to page 81 of the Student Text.

Prepare Our Hearts Song (Optional)

“Say a Prayer”

(Sung to the tune of “London Bridge”)

We fold our hands and say a prayer,
Say a prayer,
Say a prayer,
Fold our hands and say a prayer.
Let's talk to God.

Prayer

Read the Opening Prayer on page 81 of the Student Text. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

Dear God, You were faithful to Your promise when You sent Jesus, our Savior, into the world. Help us always be faithful to You and thank You for becoming one of us to save us. Amen.

Optional Preparation Activities

The following optional activities can also be used for Preparation.

Option 1: *Lectio Divina*

Instruct the students to fold their hands reverently and bow their heads in prayer during the four steps of *lectio*: **read, meditate, pray, listen.**

A detailed explanation of *lectio divina* can be found in the front matter of the Parish Catechist Manual on page xi.

Lead students in *lectio divina* on Luke 1:38: “Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.’”

Reflection (If needed, use to prompt students *during the meditation step.*)

- Lord, I am Yours.
- Lord, I will do as You ask.

Option 2: Sacred Art Reflection: *Our Lady of Fatima*, by Charles Bosseron Chambers

Direct the students to look at the painting on page 84 of the Student Text and quietly reflect and answer questions to themselves. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

Let's pray together:

Dear God, as we look at this beautiful work of art, help us love Mary, our Mother.

Look carefully at this painting. (Pause.)

Notice that Mary, our Mother, was dressed in white and she was surrounded by the clouds in the sky when she came to these three children in Fatima. (Pause.) The clouds remind us that Mary is in Heaven. Mary's heart is glowing because it is filled with God's love.

Mary, our Mother, lead us to Jesus. Amen.

Option 3: Bible Fun! Activity

Turn to page 81 of the Student Text.

- The Bible verse we will be learning in this chapter is the following: “Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word’” (Luke 1:38).
- (Ask the students to stand.) Let's put our hands around our eyes like glasses or binoculars when we say “**Behold, I am the handmaid**”.
- Let's point up to God when we say “**of the Lord.**”
- We will put our hands over our hearts when we say “**let it be to me.**”
- Let's kneel on one knee to show that we want to do whatever God tells us to do when we say “**according to your word.**”
- Let's practice together: “**Mary said,** (with hands around our eyes, like binoculars) **‘Behold, I am the handmaid** (point up to Heaven) **of the Lord;** (with hands over our hearts) **let it be to me** (kneeling down on one knee) **according to your word.’”**



Learn about God's Word

Mary said yes to God's plan to save us.
Mary became the Mother of Jesus, our Savior.

(Based on Luke 1:26–38)



82 Chapter 11, Focus 1



Introduction

Turn to page 81 of the Student Text.

Do you ever plan ahead for a special event like a birthday party or make a plan with your parents? (Answers may vary.)

A plan helps us know what we are doing.

Let's Proclaim the Good News

Let's quiet our hearts and minds to hear the truth we believe:

Mary said yes to God's plan of love.

Let's Learn about God's Word

Focus 1: The Angel Gabriel came to tell Mary about God's plan that she would be the Mother of the Savior. **V**

Scripture Paraphrase: Luke 1:26–38

Turn to page 82 of the Student Text.

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, God gave us His plan to save us.

- God's plan was to send a Savior who would open the gates of Heaven.
- God's plan was to forgive sins so that we would have a loving friendship with Him again.
- God's plan was that our Savior would teach us how to love and how to be happy.
- Finally, God's plan was fulfilled with the coming of the Savior. God's plan is that Jesus will lead each one of us to Heaven.

One day an angel named Gabriel visited a woman named Mary in a small town called Nazareth. Look at the picture on page 82 of the Student Text.

The Angel Gabriel said something very special to Mary. He said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." This tells us that Mary had a very special role in God's plan to save us. Mary was very surprised by these words and wondered what they meant.

Gabriel told her not to be afraid. He told her that she was chosen to be the Mother of the Savior, who is the Son of God. His name was to be Jesus. Mary was amazed by what the angel was telling her and wondered how God was going to make her the Mother of the Savior.

Review Chapter 10

What did God give us to help us love Him and one another? (The Ten Commandments.)

Whom does the Great Commandment tell us to love? (God and our neighbor/others.)

What do we call it when we break one of the Ten Commandments? (Sin.)

If we sin, do we hurt our relationship with God and others? (Yes.)

Will God always forgive us if we are sorry? (Yes.)

When we say we are sorry, will God always forgive us? (Yes.)

Who is the Savior who came to save us from our sin? (Jesus.)

For the Teacher: Digging Deeper

The Kingdom

The Kingdom of Israel, made up of the twelve tribes of Israel, existed under Saul, David, and Solomon—three kings who each ruled for forty years. With each of the kings there was idolatry and sin that caused many problems for Israel. Following the reign of Solomon, the kingdom split into the North and the South. However, God's people would not listen; they continued to worship false gods, so God allowed the Assyrians to invade the ten tribes in the Northern Kingdom. Later, with continued idolatry, the Southern Kingdom—the Kingdom of Judah—was sent into exile in Babylon, and the Temple in Jerusalem, where they worshipped the one true God, was destroyed. Many years passed until the Israelites were allowed to return to Jerusalem. There, they waited for hundreds of years for the restoration of the kingdom. Eventually, the Roman Empire conquered what was left. Finally, the kingdom was restored through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, the King of Kings.



Say Yes to God

God's plan was to bring Jesus, our Savior, into the world. Mary said yes to God's plan. When we say yes to God, we show our love for God.

God Sent the Angel to Mary
What did Mary say to God? Circle Mary's answer.



YES

NO

Chapter 11, Focus 2 83

The angel told her that the Holy Spirit would come over her and that nothing was impossible for God. Mary loved and trusted God. She was obedient to God. She said yes to being the Mother of the Savior!

God's people had been waiting a very long time for the Savior to come.

- But the Chosen People still trusted God and His promises.
- **Have you ever had to wait a long time for something good? What was it?** (Answers may include waiting for a birthday, waiting for Christmas, and waiting for a special vacation.)
- Oftentimes, we have to wait for God's plan for us to happen. God sent His Son, our Savior, at the perfect time.

This story of the Angel Gabriel's coming to Mary and Mary saying yes to God's plan is called the Annunciation.

- Repeat after me: **"A-nnun-ci-a-tion."** (A-nnun-ci-a-tion.)
- "Annunciation" comes from the word "announce."
- **What did Gabriel announce to Mary?** (That she would be the Mother of the Savior.)

- **How do you think Mary felt when the angel told her she was going to be the Mother of the Savior?** (Answers may include being afraid, confused, and excited.)
- **Do you think that Mary could have said no?** (Yes.)
- **Are you happy that Mary said yes?** (Yes.) **Why?** (Because she said yes, Jesus, our Savior, was able to be born.)
- **Do you think we should be thankful to Mary because she said yes?** (Yes.)
- We love Mary very much because she trusted God and said yes to His plan to be the Mother of Jesus.

The Annunciation is when the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would be the Mother of God. She said yes and Jesus became our Savior!

Let's Learn about Our Faith

Focus 2: Mary believed God and said yes to His plan of love to bring Jesus, our Savior, into the world. She believed and trusted God.

Turn to page 83 of the Student Text.

Throughout the story of God's love in the Bible, God was working out His plan. Mary's yes was a very important part of God's plan.

- Mary did not actually use the word "yes," but she said something that meant yes: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).
- A handmaid is someone who serves. Because Mary loved God so much, she wanted to serve God.
- When Mary says, "Let it be to me" (Luke 1:38), she is saying that God can use her in His plan in whatever way He desires.
- Mary obeyed God and allowed God to work through her in a special way.

Because Mary said yes, God's plan of love was carried out. Mary became the Mother of Jesus, our Savior.

- **How can we say yes to God?** (By obeying Him.)
- God has a plan for each of us to live a happy life here on earth and one day in Heaven. **Doesn't that plan sound wonderful?** (Yes.)
- Mary loves us, and so she will lead us to Jesus, who will lead us to Heaven.

For the Teacher: Digging Deeper

Celebrating the Annunciation

Catholics celebrate very important moments in salvation history. We call these *feast days*, and the very special feast days are called *solemnities*. Being *solemn* does not mean being somber; it just means very important and awe-inspiring. Every year we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation on March 25. It is no coincidence this date is nine months before December 25—the Birth of Jesus. The Annunciation is the celebration of Jesus becoming incarnate in the womb of Mary.

Our Mother in Heaven

Mary is the Mother of God. Mary is our Mother in Heaven.



Who Am I?

Match each person to the sentence that describes him or her.



I saved the world!

I visited Mary!

I said yes to God!

84 Chapter 11, Focus 3

- Mary is our example. **Because Mary said yes, we all want to say yes, don't we?** (Yes.)
- Mary loves us so much that she prays for us. Jesus always listens to Mary's prayers.
- Mary will always help us say yes to God.

God has a plan for our happiness now and in Heaven. Mary helps us say yes to God.

Activity: God Sent the Angel to Mary

Turn to page 83 of the Student Text. At the Annunciation, the Angel Gabriel asked Mary to be the Mother of Jesus. What did Mary say to God? Circle Mary's answer.

Focus 3: By saying yes to God's plan for her life, Mary found true happiness on earth and now is our Mother in Heaven.

Turn to page 84 of the Student Text.

Through Mary's Yes to God, Jesus entered the world.

- Mary is a very special part of God's plan. With her Yes, Jesus, our Savior, would be born.
- Because she was faithful to God's plan, Mary said yes and received true happiness here on earth, even when things were not easy.

Mary is the Mother of Jesus, who is God.

- **Do you remember what Person of the Blessed Trinity Jesus is?** (The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.)
- Since Mary is the Mother of Jesus, and Jesus is God, we can say that Mary is truly the Mother of God.

Mary is our Mother in Heaven.

- Jesus gave us His Mother, Mary, to be our Mother in Heaven.
- **How do mothers help their children?** (Answers may include comforting them when they are sad, feeding and clothing them, and teaching them about life.)
- **If Mary is our Mother in Heaven, how can she help us?** (Answers may vary.)
- Mary may not be physically with us like our mothers, but she can be close to our hearts, if we ask her.
- When we pray to Mary, she can comfort us and pray for us when we are sad.
- Mary can help us grow closer to Jesus, since she is so close to Him herself.
- **What are some ways we can ask Mary to be close to our hearts?** (Answers may include asking her to pray for us, especially through prayers like the Hail Mary.)

Mary is the Mother of God, and she is our Mother in Heaven. We can ask her to be close to our hearts and lead us to Jesus.

Activity: Who Am I?

Turn to page 84 of the Student Text.

Ask the students to draw a line to match each person with the right description.



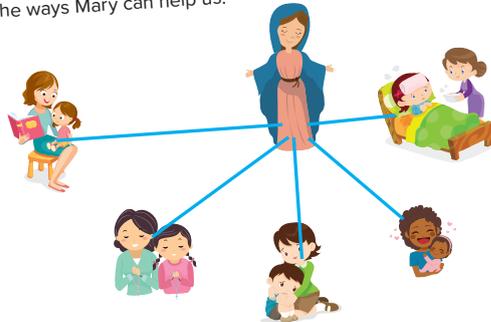
Jesus, Our Savior

Jesus is the answer to all God's promises. Jesus is our Savior.



Mary Helps Us

Mary can help us just like our mothers can. Draw lines to the ways Mary can help us.



Chapter 11, Focus 4 85

Focus 4: Jesus is our Savior. God the Father kept His promises and sent His Son to be with us.

Turn to page 85 of the Student Text.

After the sin of Adam and Eve, God never stopped loving us. He promised to send a Savior who would make everything good again.

- After the first sin, many bad things happened, but God sent His Son, Jesus, to help us!
- Our friendship with God was broken. **Who came to heal our friendship with God?** (Jesus.)
- Many people would not listen to God. **Who came to teach us to open our hearts to God's love?** (Jesus.)
- The sins of mankind needed to be forgiven. **Who came to forgive our sins?** (Jesus.)
- The gates of Heaven were closed. **Who opened the gates of Heaven?** (Jesus.)
- **Is Jesus our Savior?** (Yes.)

Throughout the story of God's love in the Bible, God prepared His people by making promises and keeping them.

- God made many promises to show His love.
- **Can you remember any of the people to whom God made promises?** (Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses.)
- Through His promises, God showed that He would be faithful to His people, even when they turned away from Him.

Whom did God use to bring Jesus into the world? (Mary.)

What did the Angel Gabriel tell Mary to name her Son? (Jesus.)

- The name Jesus means "God saves."
- Jesus' name is important because it tells us why He came.
- Jesus came to heal our broken relationship with God. He is our Savior.
- He shows us how to be holy and live happy lives; He leads us to Heaven.

Jesus is the answer to all God's promises, and He is our Savior. He heals us so that we can love God and one another and one day be happy with Him forever in Heaven.

Activity: Mary Helps Us

Turn to page 85 of the Student Text. Mary is our Mother in Heaven, and she loves us very much and always wants to be close to us and help us. Draw lines to the ways Mary can help us, just like our mothers help us.

Let's Remember Our Faith

Review the chapter by asking the students the following:

Who said yes to be the Mother of the Savior? (Mary.)

Should we always say yes to God's plan for our lives? (Yes.)

Who is our Savior? (Jesus.)

The Angel Gabriel announced the Good News to Mary. **What do we call this?** (The Annunciation.)

Is Mary the Mother of God? (Yes.)

Mary is our Mother who lives in _____. (Heaven.)

To whom does Mary always lead us? (Jesus.)

Who is the answer to all God's promises? (Jesus.)

For the Teacher: Digging Deeper

The Incarnation in the Liturgy

Every Sunday at Mass we pray the Nicene Creed to profess what we believe. In the Nicene Creed, we state, "For us men and for our salvation He came down from Heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man." This moment is such a definitive moment in salvation history that we make a profound bow when we say this part of the Creed. A profound bow is a bow at the waist. This is one way we can show reverence to the Incarnation, when God became flesh among us and revealed how much He loves us.

Let's Live Our Faith

We are part of God's plan whenever we share God's love with others.



Our Holy Friends: Mary
Mary, Mother of God, please give my prayers to Jesus. Mary, Mother of God, please lead me to your Son.

86 Chapter 11, Let's Live

Option 2: Our Holy Friends: Mary

Mary, our Mother in Heaven, is the Mother of Jesus, but she is also our spiritual mother. Just like our mothers help us with so many things, Mary helps us too, but in a very special way. Mary wants us to be always close to Jesus, so she will always help us be close to Him.

- **If your mother wanted you to do something special for her, would you say yes?** (Yes.)
- **Why?** (Because I love my mother very much.)
- **Do you think Jesus listens to His Mother, Mary?** (Yes, He listens to His Mother, Mary, because He loves her very much.) We can pray to Mary to ask Jesus to help us because Jesus especially loves her.
- Mary will always give our prayers to Jesus. **When can we turn to Mary for help?** (Answers may include when we are sad, when we need help, and when others need help.) If you find yourself needing help, pray to Mary and have her ask Jesus to help you!

Let's Celebrate Our Faith

Let's listen to the next line of the Our Father: "and lead us not into temptation."

- Temptation is a desire to do something wrong. At times, we all have a desire to make a bad choice. In the Our Father, we ask God to lead us away from these temptations.

Let's pray the Our Father together. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.

Optional Song: "Immaculate Mary"

Immaculate Mary, thy praises we sing;
Who reigns now in splendor with Jesus our King.
Ave, ave, ave, Maria! Ave, ave, Maria!

In Heaven, the blessed thy glory proclaim;
On earth we, thy children, invoke thy fair name.
Ave, ave, ave, Maria! Ave, ave, Maria!

Take Home

The **Family Faith** take-home page is located on page 88 of the Student Text and on the catechist and parent portals. Please send that page home with the students.

The **Small Wonders** story may be read at the end of class as part of the Let's Celebrate or families may access these on the parent portal.

Let's Live Our Faith

Turn to page 86 of the Student Text.

Choose one or more of the following.

Option 1: Sharing God's Plan of Love

God has a special plan for all of us. He might not send an angel with a special message, but He asks us every day to be part of His plan to love others and to help them know and love Jesus. He usually asks us in little ways. Any time we have an opportunity to show love to someone, God is asking us to be part of His plan.

What are some ways that you can show love? (Have students give specific examples for the following, to show how they have already said or would like to say yes to God:)

- *Help those in need*
- *Be kind to everyone*
- *Tell others about Jesus*
- *Pray for someone in need*

Small Wonders



Trifles goes far down to come up again.

Read the full *Small Wonders* story on the parent portal.

Chapter 11 87

Small Wonders

Trifles Says Yes

Trifles goes far down to come up again.

Lesson Link: The Annunciation of Mary and saying yes to the right things. Often the secret to following God and living life well is humility and sacrificing what we want in order to say yes to God in difficult situations, believing that He will see us through.

It was pitch-black as Trifles nosed his way down, down, down into the hole from the cave.

He had very kittenish thoughts like *I wish I was home in my little bed, and I don't like the person who invented hikes, and I wonder if other little kittens have such big adventures.*

More than anything, he hoped that snakes weren't clever enough to have stolen Granna's cupcake recipe.

Then it occurred to him that snakes didn't have arms or legs and would have great trouble with things like mixing bowls and oven knobs, and so they *couldn't* make cupcakes at all.

The hole became very narrow, but Trifles squeezed himself through. Suddenly, the hole became bigger, and he felt soft dirt under his paws. He could even stand up without bumping his head.

I've gone from a hole into a tunnel, he thought, sure that there was a difference.

He wondered what kind of scary creatures lived in dark tunnels rather than holes.

I must be brave, he said to himself. He crept onward, sniffing the air because the smell of Granna's cupcakes was stronger than before.

He brushed against the dirt wall of the tunnel on one side and then the other side, hoping that he wouldn't brush against something that *wasn't* dirt but might be living and moving.

The tunnel opened into a *passage*. Trifles assumed it was a *passage* because, instead of dirt walls like a tunnel, the passage had walls made of wooden planks.

Trifles comforted himself that snakes probably couldn't make walls made of wooden planks for the same reasons that they couldn't bake cupcakes.

The passage sloped up, and up farther, and up some more, until it came to a small wooden door. Trifles felt excited now because wooden doors were very Toy-like and that meant he was close to a Toy of some sort and a Toy meant he would find help.

He nudged the door open and stepped into a small room with shelves filled with bags and tins and cups and boxes. Trifles remembered that Granna had a small room like this that she called a *pantry*. He also remembered that her pantry had a doorway just like the one that Trifles was looking at now. He remembered, too, that the doorway led to Granna's kitchen just like this doorway did. And that's when he saw Granna herself putting icing on a tray of cupcakes.

"Hello," Trifles said in a small voice.

Granna turned to him and said, "Hello, Trifles," warmly as if she'd been expecting him. "Where did you come from?"

Trifles looked at the cupcakes and thought about how delicious they must be, but he struggled to keep his mind on the reason he was at Granna's. So, in a burst of words that spilled out and tumbled all over the place, Trifles told her about the hike to find better weather and getting lost in the forest and being stuck in the dark cave because Pencil-Neck's body was so much bigger than his head and neck.

"Oh dear," Granna said. Then she said something about Trifles finding the old rabbit warren and that must be how he came to her cottage.

Trifles wasn't sure what a warren was but skipped asking because the cupcakes still looked and smelled very tasty, and he hoped he would find out if they tasted tasty.

But Granna said, "Trifles, you must lead me back to them."

Trifles thought about the dark passage and the dark tunnel and then the dark hole and felt like he never wanted to go into them again.

"Our friends need you," Granna said gently. "Will you go?"

Trifles remembered how it felt to be brave enough to go into the dark hole in the first place. He also thought that being with Granna would make the journey less scary. So he said, "Yes, I will."

Granna brought a lit candle and followed Trifles back through the pantry to the passage and the tunnel and the hole and, funny, it didn't feel like it took as long going back as it did coming the first time.

Granna stopped at the hole and said, "I'm too big to crawl up that. But I know where the cave is now and can tell you how to get home." And she did.

"Guess what I found!" Trifles said like a big surprise to the others when he came out of the hole into the dark cave.

"Snakes!" shrieked Pencil-Neck in a wild panic, then backpedaled his legs frantically until there was a loud *pop*, and he was outside again.

(Continued on page 110)

(Small Wonders continued)

When he saw Trifles, he blushed as much as a brachiosaurus could blush.

“I know how to get home,” Trifles said.

“*You* should lead us,” Brambles said.

And that’s exactly what Trifles did.

Questions:

1. **How did Trifles’ saying yes save the other Toys?** (He found a way out of the hole.)
2. **How was Trifles a good leader?** (Even though he was afraid, he did a brave deed to save his friends.)

Chapter 11 Optional Activities

Angel Gabriel Craft

Materials:

- Copies of the patterns (found on the catechist portal); one per student
- Paper plates; one half per student
- Crayons
- Glitter
- Scissors
- Tape
- Glue sticks

Have the students color and cut out their wings and angel head patterns. Then have them color their half plates and decorate them with glitter. Join the plates at the back, forming a cone, and tape it closed (you will probably need to help them with this). Have them glue the head to the top and the wings to each side.

“The Story of God’s Love” Booklet

Materials:

- Copies of this chapter’s booklet pattern (found on the catechist portal); one per student
- Markers and other decorating materials

This chapter’s symbol is a large, bubble-letter “yes” inside a decorative heart for the students to color. Along the bottom of the page are the words “Mary said yes to God and so do I!”

After the students complete their pictures, make sure that they fill in their names. Then pick them up to keep in a special place to put together in a binder for each student at the end of the year.

Annunciation Mobile

Materials:

- Copies of the patterns (found on the catechist portal); one per student
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Three pieces of string (one 9 inch, one 7 inch, and one 5 inch); one set per student
- Tape
- Craft sticks
- Glue sticks

Have the students color and cut out the pattern of Mary and Gabriel. Tape each end of the nine-inch thread to either end of a craft stick; this will form the hanger. The two images will hang down from either end of the craft stick. Tape the seven-inch thread to the back of the Virgin Mary figure and then tape the other end of the thread to the craft stick. Do the same with the shortest piece of thread and the angel. Finally, have the students glue the verse on the front of the craft stick.

Annunciation Matching Game

Materials:

- Copies of the patterns (found on the catechist portal); one per student
- Scissors
- Ziploc bags; one per student

Have students cut out the patterns and write their names on the back of each square. Put the students in groups of three or four.

To play the game, have them turn over all the squares so that the blank side with their names faces up. Explain that the object of the game is to find the matching pairs. Have the students take turns turning over two cards at a time. They can pick any card they want, not only the ones with their own names on them. If they find a matching pair, have them keep the pair in front of them. When all the squares have been matched up, the winner will be the one with the most cards in front of them.

When the game is over, have the students gather up their own cards in their plastic bags. Encourage the students to share the story of the Annunciation with their families. Parents can print additional copies of the game from the parent portal if desired.