



*Working Together for Catholic Education*

# **THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE**

## **UNIT 3**

### **The Word Made Flesh (Advent)**

#### **Lesson 5**

#### **Mary's YES**

## Unit 3 Lesson 5

<b>The Word Made Flesh (Advent)</b>	<b>Mary's YES</b>
	<b>Lesson Overview</b> Students will examine the ways in which we answer God's call as did Mary.

	CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS	ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS
	<p><b>Religious Education:</b></p> <p><b>Grade 4:</b>  <b>LS3:</b> Understand that God wants all people to receive the gift of salvation (i.e. Jesus Christ, the Gospel) and in order to do this we are to respectfully invite other religions to know Jesus. [CCC nos. 748-870; 1213-1284; 2110-2141]</p> <p><b>Grade 5:</b>  <b>LC2.2:</b> Identify Mary's role of discipleship using passages of the Old and New Testament, link this with the mystery of her Son Jesus Christ and identify the virtues that distinguish her as the first disciple (obedience and trust to God's will e.g. Magnificat). [CCC nos. 963-970]</p> <p><b>Grade 6:</b>  <b>LS1.1:</b> Identify and compare the call stories in Scripture which reflect conversion and fidelity to God as the foundation of our vocation and which can transform the lives of others (e.g. Moses 3:7-10; Jeremiah 1:1-10; John 1:35-42; Mary - Luke 1:26-38). [CCC nos. 1262-1284]</p>	<p>The <b>Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations</b> evident in this lesson include:</p> <p><b>CGE1g:</b> understands that one's purpose or call in life comes from God and strives to discern and live out this call throughout life's journey;</p> <p>The <b>Catholic Social Teachings</b> evident in this lesson include:</p> <p>Call to Family, Community, and Participation</p>

Guiding Questions (coming out of the Big Idea)	
	<p><b>Big Idea:</b> Mary is the first among the Communion of Saints and the first disciple of Christ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When do we say “Yes” to God?</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><b>Scripture Passages:</b> Luke 1:46-55, Psalm 127:3</p>

LEARNING GOALS	
	<p>At the end of this lesson, students will know, understand and/or be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand the choice Mary made when she decided to say ‘yes’ to God when she was asked to bear His son.</li> </ul> <p><b>Success Criteria</b>, based on the Learning Goals, can be co-constructed as a class in language meaningful to students. The success criteria help students understand what to look for during the learning and what it looks like once they have learned. They identify the significant aspects of student performance that are assessed and/or evaluated (i.e., the “look-fors”) in relation to curriculum expectations.</p>

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT	
<p><b>Terminology:</b></p> <p>Magnificat God’s will</p>	<p><b>Materials:</b> Computer/Device</p> <p><b>Resources:</b> Song - Great Things (Matt Maher): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7KlmzZ_f9k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7KlmzZ_f9k</a></p> <p><b>Resources:</b> Prayer ‘Help me Say “Yes”’</p>

MINDS ON	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a positive learning environment</li> <li>• Connecting to prior learning and/or experiences</li> <li>• Setting the context for learning</li> </ul>
	<p>Full class discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is meant by “Mary’s Yes”? (her accepting to give birth to Jesus, God’s son)</li> <li>2. Do you think that it was easy for Mary to say yes?</li> <li>3. How can we relate to Mary’s yes in our lives? (We are asked to say ‘yes’ to God every day.)</li> </ol> <p>Have the students discuss in pairs the ways in which we say ‘yes’ to God. (2 mins). Invite students to share as a class. Ideas can be gathered on the board, Smart Board, or online via a sharing software such as <i>Padlet</i>.</p>

Ask the students to return to their partner and discuss the ways in which we say 'no' to God. Invite the students to share their thoughts with the class.

What would have happened if Mary said 'no'?

How can we change our 'no' responses to 'yes' responses? (Pray, seek support from others, look up to role models such as positive influences in our lives or the saints, try to understand that God's will is better for us than our own).

Ask students if they know that Mary's "yes" is also a popular prayer. The prayer is called the Magnificat, and is also known as Mary's Song. It is one of the eight most ancient hymns in the Church and is found in Luke's Gospel (Luke 1:46-55). Mary is visiting her cousin Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist. When Mary greets Elizabeth, John leaps in Elizabeth's womb, and Elizabeth praises Mary for having such strong faith. Then Mary responds with the Magnificat.

Invite students to view the Great Things music video as a contemporary interpretation of her 'yes'. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7KlmzZ\\_f9k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7KlmzZ_f9k)

### ACTION

- Introducing new learning or extending/reinforcing prior learning
- Providing opportunities for practice and application of learning (guided & independent)

Activity: Can you hear me?

1. Set-up two lines of students, facing each other, with a partner on each side (picture a water balloon or egg toss games).
2. Ask them all to take several giant steps backward, so there is a large distance between the lines.
3. Give each person a piece of popcorn on one of the sides.
4. On the count of three, have them throw their piece of popcorn to their partners. (They should be far enough away that they have no chance of success in reaching their partners.)
5. Ask everyone to take a small step in toward each other, and give a piece of popcorn to each person in the other line.
6. On the count of three, tell them to throw their piece of popcorn. Again, they should not be able to reach the other side.
7. Continue doing this, taking a step in, each time, until they are close enough to succeed in reaching their partners.

### CONSOLIDATION

- Providing opportunities for consolidation and reflection
- Helping students demonstrate what they have learned

Discuss:

1. What happened when we were too far away from our partners? (we failed to reach them.) God is trying to reach us every day, and we are hopefully trying to reach God.
2. How do we stay 'close enough' to God? (through prayer – which is our relationship with God, and the sacraments, which strengthen us and help us grow in our faith).

Mary chose to believe in God. Mary stayed close to God. Mary chose to say 'Yes' to God and her 'Yes' changed everything. What about our own 'yes'? Like Mary, we too are called to bring Jesus to the world. Maybe it all starts today.

Have students write the word 'yes' on a small card or piece of paper. It can be a reminder of the message of the lesson. Distribute a "Help Me Say "Yes" prayer (*Appendix A*) to each student. Invite everyone to pray this together to conclude the lesson.

### CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Further extensions to this lesson might include:

1. Compare the song "Great Things" by Matt Maher to the prayer "The Magnificat". Note the similarities and differences.
2. Consider exploring a picture book:  
 Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed (Emily Pearson)  
 Tonight You Are My Baby – Mary's Christmas Gift (Jeannine Norris)  
 Mary's First Christmas (Walter J. Wangerin)

Appendix A

**Prayer: Help Me Say "Yes"**

Lynn Wehner



Like Mary when the angel came,  
Like Joseph after his dream,  
Like the Shepherds when the angels sang,  
Like Wise Men who tracked the stars gleam.  
Like the saints who suffer in silence,  
Like the priest who answers the call,  
Like the man and woman who married in love,  
Like the teacher whose values stand tall.  
Like the mother who nurtures her unborn child,  
Like the child who kneels to pray,  
Like the family who lives by putting God first,  
Help me say "YES" every day.



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