



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1: 39 – 45

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Some things to think about...

This week is a time to think about the brave choice that Mary made when she said yes to God's invitation to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.

Elizabeth's exclamation, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!", reminds us of the greeting Mary received from the Angel Gabriel.

Why was Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit?

Think about the words of the Hail Mary. What do they tell us about the person of Mary?

Activity

This short passage contains lots of "action" words, or verbs. Highlight the action words, and talk about how they make the passage so happy and exciting.

As Mini Vinnies we are asked to see, think, do. Take time to reflect on all the actions you have already taken during Advent. Can you write them down? Maybe check your Reverse Advent Calendar?

Teacher's Notes

In this reading, Elizabeth says that when she heard Mary's voice the baby leaped in her womb. The Holy Spirit has given her understanding of what has been promised to Mary. Elizabeth is in awe of Mary, "the mother of my Lord", because she has trusted that what God promised will come to be. Mary's answer to Elizabeth is called the Magnificat. (Luke 1: 46- 53)

You may want to look at her words with the children. As Christians, and especially as Mini Vinnies, we are asked, like Mary, to trust God. We are asked to place everything in God's hands, and to believe that He will help us if we don't know what to do.

You may want to learn the song, "Father I place into your hands" (Hymns Old & New). As Mini Vinnies, we can do lots of practical things to help those who need our help. But some problems, like wars, are beyond our practical capabilities.

So, the children need to understand the need for prayer, to ask God to help us and to help when we don't know what we can do.

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