

By Faith, Mary and Joseph Were Obedient

(This program is designed around the theme of a Baby Shower for Jesus)

***Adapted from program by Charlotte Gargis
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Set-Up/ Decorations: Place a Nativity so that it is the central focus of the room. Decorate with Christmas colors and decorations of your choice.

Ahead of time invite the women to bring gifts that can be used in the Family Services office for clients who are expecting a baby or have infants. Or another idea is to ask the women to bring items that would be suitable for the nursery at the church.

Games: Choose and play games that you would normally play at a shower.

Spiritual/Devotional time: Mark the announcement of Jesus' birth by watching the YouTube video "Bread of Heaven (Mary's Song) The Nativity Story."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOQRtYYERGo>

Or have one of the women dressed in a costume as Mary sing the song.

Devotion-The birth of Jesus

By faith, Mary and Joseph were obedient to God, even when it didn't make sense. The odds were against them, and they knew that the birth of this child was going to be hard for them and there would be many questions.

From the beginning of the story, when the angel appeared separately to both Mary and Joseph, it probably didn't make sense to them. Mary had not been with a man, but the angel told her she was going to be pregnant and give birth to the Son of God, who would be King, and His Kingdom would never end.

Joseph was a hard working carpenter, with simple plans to marry a simple girl and have a normal life. But the angel told him that his fiancé was pregnant (and not with his child), but he should go ahead and marry her because she would give birth to a son, a Redeemer, who would save all people from their sins. Mary's response was, "May it be to me as you have said." And Joseph simply got up, and did what the Lord told him to do.

Mary gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. She held Him, nursed Him, cared for Him and loved Him, just as a mother should. But in the back of her mind the sound of the angel's voice must have echoed. She knew that this was not just any child, but the "Son of God."

When the three Wise Men came bringing gifts to the child, it was a strong reminder of this baby's purpose on earth. They brought gold, a gift for a King; frankincense, a gift for a priest; and myrrh, an embalming oil, a gift that symbolized death, reminding us that Jesus came as a sacrifice to die and to save His people from their sins. "But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19)

Even when the things God's Word calls us to do may not make sense to us, or seem to be hard, we are to be faithful and obey. Then we, like Mary and Joseph, will get to carry Jesus Christ to a world that needs Him more than ever. May we like Mary say, "May it be to me as you have said," and like Joseph, get up and do what the Lord says.

Refreshments/Closing: Serve baby shower cake and other treats.

Closing: Thank the women for their gifts. Share in prayer for your women and those who will be blessed through this practical giving.