



Prophecy and
Promise

Branch 2

Y1 Teachers' Guide

Version 1: September 2026

This booklet is offered as a theological guide for teachers. Although the information provides some context for the whole branch, it will be most useful for teachers as they deliver the first few sessions and lessons within the branch.

Teachers' Guide: Y1 Prophecy and Promise

Session 1	
Learning Focus	Hear Luke 1:2336 – 38 focus on 26-32,38 Know why the stories in the bible are so special.
Recall and Retrieval	What is the Bible? (EYFS)
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Pupils will know: That the Bible is a special book that we encounter stories about how people get to know God. U1.2.1. Recognise that, for Christians, the Christmas story reveals God's love by sending Jesus his Son
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	U1.2.1. Recognise that, for Christians, the Christmas story reveals God's love by sending Jesus his Son. U1.2.2. Be introduced to the Bible as a special book and encounter the stories and accounts of how people came to know God and the Good News of Jesus in the gospel

U1.2.1. – The Christmas Story Reveals God's Love

1. What Christians Believe About Christmas

- At Christmas, Christians celebrate the **Incarnation** — God becoming human in Jesus.
- This shows God's love because:
 - He did not stay distant but came close to people.
 - Jesus was born in poverty, in a stable, showing God shares the lives of ordinary people.
 - Jesus is called **Emmanuel**, meaning "God with us."

2. The Meaning for Christians

- Jesus' birth is the beginning of the Good News (the Gospel).
- Christians believe God sent Jesus to bring peace, hope, and salvation.
- The humility of the Nativity (shepherds first to visit, not kings or rulers) shows that God's love is for everyone, especially the poor and lowly.

3. How This Can Be Shared with Children

- Emphasise that the **gift of Jesus** is the greatest gift of love.
- Help them notice: the manger, the shepherds, the angels all point to God's closeness and love.

U1.2.2. – The Bible as a Special Book

1. What the Bible Is

- The Bible is the **sacred book** for Christians.
- It is made up of two main parts:
 - **Old Testament:** stories of God's people before Jesus.
 - **New Testament:** stories of Jesus and the early Church.

2. The Gospels

- The first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- They tell the **Good News of Jesus:** his birth, teachings, miracles, death, and resurrection.
- Gospel means "*Good News*."

3. Why the Bible Is Special

- Christians believe it is the **Word of God**, inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- It shows people how to live in God's love.
- It contains prayers, songs (psalms), and wisdom.

4. How This Can Be Shared with Children

- Show a physical Bible in class and highlight it as a book of **stories about God's love**.
- Read the Nativity account from Luke's Gospel (Luke 2:1–20) as an example.
- Emphasise:
 - The Bible tells us about real people who came to know God.
 - It gives us the Good News of Jesus.

Teacher Summary

- **U1.2.1.:** The Christmas story reveals God's love because God sent Jesus, his Son, to be "God with us" (Emmanuel).
- **U1.2.2.:** The Bible is the Christian special book, made up of Old and New Testaments. The Gospels tell the Good News of Jesus, helping Christians know God and his love.

Session 2	
Learning Focus	Believe Hear Luke 1:23 36 – 38 focus on 26-32,38 Know that in the annunciation God called Mary and she said 'yes' and this is why Mary is important to Christians.
Recall and Retrieval	What do you know about the birth of Jesus? Pupils learnt about the annunciation in EYFS in basic form.
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Pupils will know: The Story of the Annunciation That God called Mary and she said Yes That Mary is very special to Christians. That Mary is diversely represented (celebrate) Recognise that angels bring God's message and are a sign of the presence of God.
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	U1.2.4. Know that in the Annunciation God called Mary and she said 'Yes' to his call and why this makes Mary important for Christians. U1.2.3. Sequence the accounts from the Annunciation through to the visit of the shepherds U1.2.6. Recognise that angels bring God's message and are a sign of the presence of God.

U1.2.4 – The Annunciation: Mary's Yes to God

The Story (Luke 1:26–38)

- The angel **Gabriel** was sent by God to Mary in Nazareth.
- Gabriel greeted her: *"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you."*
- He told her she would bear a son, **Jesus**, who would be called the Son of the Most High.
- Mary asked how this could be since she was not married.
- Gabriel explained: the **Holy Spirit** would come upon her, and the child would be holy.
- Mary responded: *"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."*

Why This Makes Mary Important for Christians

- Mary said “**yes**” (her *fiat*) to God’s plan.
- She showed **faith, humility, and obedience**.
- Christians honour Mary because:
 - o She is the **Mother of Jesus**, and therefore the **Mother of God**.
 - o She is the first disciple, a model of saying yes to God.
 - o She shows trust in God even when she didn’t fully understand.

U1.2.3 – Sequence of Events (Annunciation → Shepherds)

1. The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38)

- Gabriel tells Mary she will have a child, Jesus.
- Mary says yes.

2. The Visitation (Luke 1:39–56)

- Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth.
- John the Baptist leaps in Elizabeth’s womb.
- Mary prays the **Magnificat**.

3. The Birth of Jesus (Nativity) (Luke 2:1–7)

- Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem.
- Jesus is born in a stable and laid in a manger.

4. The Announcement to the Shepherds (Luke 2:8–14)

- Angels appear to shepherds in the fields.
- They proclaim: “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.*”

5. The Visit of the Shepherds (Luke 2:15–20)

- Shepherds go to Bethlehem, find Jesus, and worship him.
- They spread the Good News.
- Mary treasures all these things in her heart.

U1.2.6 – Angels Bring God’s Message

Role of Angels in the Stories

- **To Mary:** Gabriel announces God’s plan (Annunciation).
- **To Joseph:** An angel in a dream reassures him to take Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:20–21).
- **To Shepherds:** Angels announce the birth of Jesus and sing praise to God.

Theological Meaning of Angels

- Angels are messengers of God, not just “helpers with wings.”
- They are a sign of **God’s presence and guidance**.
- In the Christmas story, angels show that God’s message is joyful, hopeful, and meant for everyone (from Mary to humble shepherds).

Teacher Summary

- **Mary’s Yes (U1.2.4):** The Annunciation shows Mary’s faith and obedience, making her a model for Christians.
- **Sequence of Events (U1.2.3):** Annunciation → Visitation → Birth of Jesus → Angels appear → Shepherds visit.
- **Angels (U1.2.6):** Angels carry God’s message and reveal His presence — they appear at every key stage in the Christmas story.

Session 3	
Learning Focus	Hear/ believe Luke 1:39 – 45 Know the story of the Visitation and that it came after the Annunciation.
Recall and Retrieval	What was the annunciation? Why does it make Mary so special to us?
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Pupils will know: Story of the visitation That the visitation happened after the annunciation. That in the story, Elizabeths baby recognised that Mary's baby was very special.
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	U1.2.3. Sequence the accounts from the Annunciation through to the visit of the shepherds

U1.2.3 – Sequence of the Christmas Story in Luke's Gospel

1. The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38)

- The angel **Gabriel** visits **Mary** in Nazareth.
- He tells her she will bear a son, **Jesus**, who will be the Son of the Most High.
- Mary asks how this can be, and Gabriel explains it will be by the **Holy Spirit**.
- Mary responds with faith: *"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."*

2. The Visitation (Luke 1:39–56)

- Mary visits her cousin **Elizabeth**, who is pregnant with **John the Baptist**.
- When Mary greets her, John leaps in Elizabeth's womb.
- Elizabeth recognises Mary as the "Mother of my Lord."
- Mary praises God with her prayer, the **Magnificat**: *"My soul magnifies the Lord..."*

3. The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1–7)

- A decree from Caesar Augustus orders a census.
- Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to **Bethlehem**, the city of David.
- There is no room at the inn, so Jesus is born in a stable and laid in a **manger**.

4. Angels Appear to the Shepherds (Luke 2:8–14)

- Shepherds are watching their flocks at night.
- An **angel of the Lord** appears to them, and the glory of God shines around them.
- The angel tells them: *"To you is born this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."*
- Suddenly, a multitude of angels sing: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace."*

5. The Visit of the Shepherds (Luke 2:15–20)

- The shepherds go quickly to Bethlehem and find Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus lying in the manger.
- They worship Jesus and tell others what they have seen.
- Mary treasures all these things and reflects on them in her heart.
- The shepherds return, glorifying and praising God.

Teacher Summary

The sequence of events in Luke's Gospel is:

1. **Annunciation** (Gabriel appears to Mary).
2. **Visitation** (Mary visits Elizabeth).
3. **Birth of Jesus** (in Bethlehem, laid in a manger).
4. **Angels' message to the shepherds** (Good News of great joy).

5. Visit of the shepherds (they worship Jesus and spread the news).

This order highlights how the story builds: from God's message to Mary → Mary's response → the humble birth of Jesus → the angelic announcement → the shepherds sharing the Good News.

Session 4	
Learning Focus	Believe/ Celebrate Know that the first words of the Hail Mary were said by the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation. Understand/ Discern
Recall and Retrieval	What have we learnt about before the birth of Jesus so far? Who was Mary? Who is Elizabeth? What did they Angel Gabriel say?
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Pupils will know: The Hail Mary, we pray with Mary when we need comfort That the words of Gabriel can be matched up with the Hail Mary. That the words of the angels are in the hail Mary Elizabeth's words are also in the Hail Mary- can they spot them?
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	U1.2.5. Match the first words of the Hail Mary with the words of the Angel Gabriel. D1.2.2. Thinking about why the words of the angels are in the 'Hail Mary' (and the Gloria).

U1.2.5. – Hail Mary and the Words of the Angel Gabriel

The Angel's Words (Luke 1:28, 42)

- When Gabriel appears to Mary at the Annunciation, he greets her:
"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you." (Luke 1:28)
- When Mary visits Elizabeth, Elizabeth (filled with the Holy Spirit) says:
"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (Luke 1:42)

The Hail Mary Prayer

The prayer begins by bringing these two Bible verses together:

- *"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee."* (Gabriel's greeting)
- *"Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus."* (Elizabeth's words)

Meaning: The prayer honours Mary by repeating the very words spoken to her in Scripture, recognising her role in God's plan as the Mother of Jesus.

D1.2.2 – Why the Angels' Words Are in the Hail Mary (and the Gloria)

1. Why in the Hail Mary?

- Christians pray the words of Gabriel and Elizabeth because they are **directly from the Bible**.
- Saying them is a way of **joining in the praise of Mary** that began with the angel and Elizabeth.
- It reminds Christians that Mary is "full of grace" because she said yes to God's plan and became the Mother of Jesus.

2. Why in the Gloria?

- The **Gloria** is a hymn of praise sung at Mass.
- It begins with the words the angels sang to the shepherds when Jesus was born:
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill." (Luke 2:14)
- By singing these words, Christians join with the angels in praising God for the gift of Jesus.

3. Theological Significance

- Both prayers show how **angels announce Good News** in the Christmas story.
- The Church treasures these words because they connect prayer today with the very first announcement of salvation.
- The *Hail Mary* recalls Mary's faith; the *Gloria* recalls the joy of Christ's birth.

Teacher Summary

- **U1.2.5.:** The opening of the Hail Mary comes from Gabriel's greeting (Luke 1:28) and Elizabeth's blessing (Luke 1:42).
- **D1.2.2.:** Christians keep the angels' words in prayer because they connect worship today with the first proclamation of the Good News. The *Hail Mary* honours Mary's yes to God, and the *Gloria* joins the angels' song of joy at Jesus' birth.

Session 5	
Learning Focus	Hear/ Believe Know the story of Jesus's birth.
Recall and Retrieval	What have we learnt about before the birth of Jesus so far? Can you remember what happens next?
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Pupils will know: That Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem for the census That Mary was on a donkey That they found it hard to find a place to sleep. That an innkeeper suggested a stable That Jesus was born and laid in a manger. That this story is remembered and celebrated every year as Jesus is God's only son.
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	U1.2.3. Sequence the accounts from the Annunciation through to the visit of the shepherds U1.2.1. Recognise that, for Christians, the Christmas story reveals God's love by sending Jesus his Son.

U1.2.3 – Sequence of the Christmas Story (Luke 1–2)

1. The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38)

- The angel **Gabriel** appears to Mary in Nazareth.
- He tells her she will have a son, **Jesus**, who will be the Son of the Most High.
- Mary asks how this can happen, and Gabriel explains it will be through the **Holy Spirit**.
- Mary says yes (*fiat*): "*Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.*"

2. The Visitation (Luke 1:39–56)

- Mary visits her cousin **Elizabeth**, who is pregnant with John the Baptist.
- When Mary greets her, Elizabeth's baby leaps in her womb.
- Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, blesses Mary: "*Blessed are you among women.*"
- Mary responds with her prayer, the **Magnificat**: "*My soul magnifies the Lord.*"

3. The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1–7)

- Mary and Joseph travel to **Bethlehem** because of a census.
- With no room at the inn, Jesus is born in humble surroundings and laid in a **manger**.

4. Angels Appear to the Shepherds (Luke 2:8–14)

- Shepherds are watching their sheep at night.

- An **angel of the Lord** appears and announces the Good News: *"To you is born this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."*
- A host of angels sing: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace."*

5. The Visit of the Shepherds (Luke 2:15–20)

- The shepherds hurry to Bethlehem and find Mary, Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.
- They tell others what they have seen, praising God.
- Mary treasures these events and reflects on them in her heart.

U1.2.1. – The Christmas Story as God's Love

How the Story Shows God's Love

- **God sends Jesus, His Son:** This is the Incarnation — God becomes human in Jesus.
- **Jesus is born in poverty:** In a stable, laid in a manger, showing God shares the lives of ordinary people.
- **First announced to shepherds:** God's message is for everyone, especially the poor and humble, not just the powerful.
- **Angels bring peace and joy:** The song of the angels shows Jesus' birth is Good News for the whole world.

Why This Matters for Christians

- Christmas is not just about a baby's birth, but about **God's gift of love**.
- Jesus is Emmanuel — *"God with us"* — showing God's closeness to humanity.
- The Christmas story is the beginning of salvation: God's plan to save and bring peace to the world.

Teacher Summary

- **Sequence (U1.2.3):** Annunciation → Visitation → Birth of Jesus → Angels' message → Visit of shepherds.
- **Meaning (U1.2.1):** The Christmas story reveals God's love because Jesus is His Son, born humbly for all people, showing that God is close, loving, and faithful to His promises.

Session 6	
Learning Focus	Live know that the nativity can be represented in many ways. Discern/ Respond
Recall and Retrieval	What can you remember from the story of Jesus' birth?
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Know the story of the night of Jesus' birth Know that different cultures and different artist represent this differently. Know that the scriptures tell us that Jesus was born in a stable, but we don't exactly know what this looked like as it was so long ago.
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	D1.2.3. Exploring artistic representations of the nativity story from around the world. (RVE)

D1.2.3 – Artistic Representations of the Nativity (RVE)

1. Why Explore Nativity Art?

- The **Nativity** (birth of Jesus) is a universal Christian story, but artists interpret it through their own **culture, setting, and traditions**.

- Looking at Nativity art from different places shows that Jesus came for **all people**, not just one culture or time.
- This helps pupils understand both the **universality of Christianity** and the **diversity of its expression**.

2. Examples of Nativity Art Around the World

a) European (Traditional Western)

- Artists like **Fra Angelico** or **Giotto** (Italy) show Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and angels in rich colours, halos, and classical robes.
- Focus: Jesus as the divine child, often glowing with light.
- Meaning: Emphasises the holiness and mystery of the Incarnation.

b) African Nativity (e.g. Tanzanian or Ethiopian icons)

- Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are often shown with African features, dress, and surroundings.
- Animals (like cows and goats) are native to the region.
- Meaning: Shows that Jesus is present in African culture — he came for all nations.

c) Latin American Nativity (e.g. Mexico, Peru)

- Bright, festive colours; sometimes figures wear traditional local clothing.
- Scenes like **Las Posadas** (Mary and Joseph seeking shelter) are also shown in art.
- Meaning: Jesus is born into the struggles of everyday people, especially the poor.

a) Asian Nativity (e.g. China, Philippines, Japan)

- Figures wear Asian robes or are set in bamboo stables or rice fields.
- Filipino "Parols" (star lanterns) often appear in Nativity art.
- Meaning: Highlights the universality of the Christmas message in Asian cultures.

3. Theological Meaning Across Cultures

- All Nativities share the same central truth: **God's love is revealed in Jesus, born for the world**.
- Each culture expresses this truth in its own symbols, dress, and artistic styles.
- This reflects the Catholic idea of the **Inculturation of the Gospel** — the Good News takes root in every culture.

Teacher Summary

- Nativity art is found in every culture: Europe (classical holy images), Africa (local features and animals), Latin America (festive and communal), Asia (local landscapes and clothing).
- Each version emphasises that Jesus' birth is for all people and all nations.
- With children, comparing artworks encourages both recognition of shared Christian belief and appreciation of cultural diversity.

Session 7	
Learning Focus	Hear/Believe/Celebrate Know why the angels came to see the shepherds Understand/Discern
Recall and Retrieval	What can you remember of the story so far – ordering the pictures from a selection.
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Know that in Luke's Gospel, Shepherds visited Jesus. Know that the angels bring God's messages and are a sign of the presence of God. Know the words that the Angels said to the Shepherds.
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	U1.2.6. Recognise that angels bring God's message and are a sign that Jesus is the Son of God D1.2.1. Talking about why the shepherds saw angels when Jesus was born. D1.2.2. Thinking about why the words of the angels are in the 'Hail Mary'

U1.2.6 – Angels Bring God's Message

What Are Angels?

- In the Bible, **angels** are messengers of God, not just winged figures, but signs of God's presence and action.
- They often begin with: *"Do not be afraid"* — because their message is life-changing.

Angels in the Christmas Story (Luke 1–2)

- **Gabriel to Mary (Annunciation):** announces Jesus' birth, showing he is the **Son of God**.
- **Angel to Joseph (Matthew's Gospel):** tells him to take Mary as his wife, confirming God's plan.
- **Angels to Shepherds (Luke 2:8–14):** announce *"A Saviour is born"* and sing praise: *"Glory to God in the highest."*

Theological Meaning

- Angels confirm Jesus' **divine identity**: he is not just any baby but the promised **Messiah and Son of God**.
- Their presence shows heaven and earth are joined in the birth of Christ.

D1.2.1 – Why Did the Shepherds See Angels?

- Shepherds were **ordinary, poor, and humble** people — not powerful rulers.
- God chose them to be the **first witnesses** of Jesus' birth.
- By sending angels to shepherds:
 - God shows that His Good News is for **everyone**, especially the lowly.
 - Angels reveal that Jesus is the **Saviour of all**, not just the rich or important.
- For pupils: The shepherds seeing angels reminds Christians that **God values everyone equally**.

D1.2.2 – Why Are the Angels' Words in the Hail Mary?

Link to the Bible

- The **Hail Mary** prayer uses the words of the angel Gabriel and Elizabeth from Luke's Gospel:
 - Gabriel: *"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you."* (Luke 1:28)
 - Elizabeth: *"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."* (Luke 1:42)

Why They Are Included

- By praying the Hail Mary, Christians **repeat the words first spoken by heaven and the Spirit**.
- It honours Mary's role in saying yes to God's plan.
- It keeps alive the angel's joyful announcement that Mary would be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.

Teacher Summary

- **U1.2.6.:** Angels are messengers of God; in the Nativity, they confirm Jesus is God's Son.
- **D1.2.1.:** Shepherds saw angels because God's Good News is for everyone, especially the poor and humble.
- **D1.2.2.:** The angels' words are in the *Hail Mary* because they are taken directly from Scripture, celebrating Mary's unique role in salvation history.

Session 8	
Learning Focus	Believe Know that the angels' message to the shepherds is used in the Gloria. Understand/ Respond
Recall and Retrieval	Who visited the shepherds in the field? What did they say?
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Know the story of the angels visiting the shepherds with greater confidence. Know that the words of the angels are still important to us today. Know that the angels' words create the first few lines of the Gloria, and we say these in Mass. (Know that in Latin we say Gloria in Gloria in Excelsis Deo "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" is a Latin phrase that translates to "Glory to God in the highest". It is a Christian hymn also known as the Greater Doxology, the Angelic Hymn, or the Hymn of the Angels. The phrase is often abbreviated to "Gloria in Excelsis" or simply "Gloria"
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	D1.2.2. Thinking about why the words of the angels are in the 'Hail Mary' and the beginning of the 'Gloria'. R1.2.2. Singing or saying the first words of the Gloria

The Angels' Message and the Gloria

1. The Angels Visit the Shepherds (Luke 2:8–14)

- **Story in detail:**
 - On the night Jesus was born, shepherds were watching their flocks.
 - An **angel of the Lord** appeared, and they were terrified.
 - The angel reassured them: *"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: today a Saviour has been born... he is Christ the Lord."*
 - Suddenly a whole host of angels appeared, praising God.
- **Why this matters:**
 - Shepherds were poor and ordinary — God chose them to be the **first witnesses** of Jesus' birth.
 - Angels proclaim Jesus' true identity: **Saviour, Messiah, Lord**.
 - This scene shows that God's message of love is for **everyone**, not just the powerful.

2. The Angels' Words and Their Lasting Importance

- The angels sang: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill."* (Luke 2:14).
- These words are still used in the Church today, reminding Christians that:
 - o Jesus brings **peace** to the world.
 - o Worship on earth is joined to the **praise of heaven**.
- The angels' words were the **first hymn of Christmas**, and Christians continue singing them in Mass.

3. The Gloria in the Mass

- The **Gloria** is a hymn of praise sung at Sunday Mass (except in Advent and Lent).
- It begins with the angels' words to the shepherds.
- This shows that Christians today still join in the **song of the angels**.
- **In Latin:**
 - o *"Gloria in Excelsis Deo"* = *"Glory to God in the highest."*
 - o This hymn is also called:
 - The **Greater Doxology** (a formal hymn of praise).
 - The **Angelic Hymn** or **Hymn of the Angels**.
- Using the Latin phrase helps children see the **continuity of faith** — Christians around the world and across history have prayed these same words.

Session 9	
Learning Focus	Knowledge Capture Know the sequence of stories from the annunciation to the visit from the shepherds Understand
Recall and Retrieval	Retrieve the learning so far using the images.
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Pupils will show knowledge of the story order and events from the annunciation to the Shepherds, Some children will just be able to order the pictures. Most children will be able to paraphrase the story. Some children will remember the words that were said by the Angels and that Mary said yes.
Key skills/disciplinary knowledge	U1.2.3. Sequence the accounts from the Annunciation through to the visit of the shepherds

U1.2.3 – Sequencing the Christmas Story (Luke 1–2)

2. The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38)

- The angel **Gabriel** appears to Mary in Nazareth.
- He tells her she will give birth to a son, **Jesus**, who will be called the Son of the Most High.
- Mary asks how this can be, and Gabriel explains it will be through the **Holy Spirit**.
- Mary says yes: *"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."*

2. The Visitation (Luke 1:39–56)

- Mary visits her cousin **Elizabeth**, who is expecting John the Baptist.
- When Mary greets her, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy.
- Elizabeth, filled with the **Holy Spirit**, says: *"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."*
- Mary praises God in her prayer, the **Magnificat**: *"My soul magnifies the Lord."*

3. The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1–7)

- A census is ordered by Caesar Augustus, and Mary and Joseph travel to **Bethlehem**.
- With no room at the inn, Mary gives birth to Jesus in humble surroundings.
- Jesus is laid in a **manger** (an animal feeding trough), showing his simplicity and humility.

4. The Angels Appear to the Shepherds (Luke 2:8–14)

- Nearby, shepherds are watching their sheep at night.
- An **angel of the Lord** appears and tells them: *"To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."*
- A multitude of angels sing: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace."*

5. The Visit of the Shepherds (Luke 2:15–20)

- The shepherds hurry to Bethlehem and find Mary, Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.
- They worship Jesus and tell others the Good News.
- Mary treasures and reflects on these things in her heart.
- The shepherds return glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard.

Teacher Summary

The correct sequence is:

- **Annunciation** – Gabriel visits Mary.
- **Visitation** – Mary visits Elizabeth.
- **Birth of Jesus** – in Bethlehem, laid in a manger.
- **Angels' message** – to shepherds in the fields.
- **Shepherds visit** – worship Jesus and spread the news.

This order shows how the story builds: God's message to Mary → Mary's faithful "yes" → Jesus' humble birth → the angels' announcement → the shepherds' joyful response.