

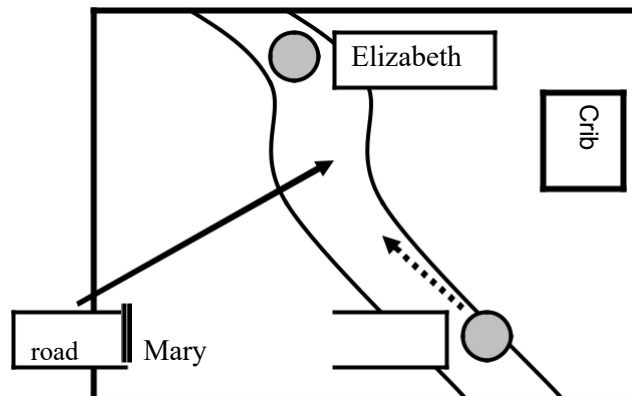
# MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

(based on Luke 1:39-45)

## Part 2: The Visitation

### YOU WILL NEED:

- A purple cloth
- A strip of brown fabric for a road
- 2 figures – Mary and Elizabeth
- An empty crib



Children are seated in a semi-circle ready to listen to the story. When the children are settled, go to the shelf and carry the materials as you would the Bible. Place these beside you.

Begin by rolling the purple cloth in front of you and saying:

**Purple is the colour for getting ready. It is the colour of Advent.**

Place the empty crib on the left hand side of the cloth.

**Advent is a time for getting ready. It is a time of waiting for a most amazing event.**

Place the road across the material as you say:

**The season of Advent is the time we get ready to celebrate the mystery of Christmas.**

**During Advent we remember some of the special people who listened to God and helped God's promise to come true.**

Put Mary at one end of the road and Elizabeth at the other end.

**Let's listen to the story of two of these people who got ready for Jesus.**

Put your hand over Mary as you say:

**An angel had told Mary she was going to become the mother of Jesus. She was amazed but very happy.**

Move Mary as if walking along the road towards Elizabeth. Stop about halfway.

**She set off to tell her cousin Elizabeth. Mary thought Elizabeth would be surprised by her news.**

Put your hand over Elizabeth.

**Elizabeth was much older than Mary and she was going to have a baby too. They could help each other.**

Move Mary close to Elizabeth.

**When Mary came close to Elizabeth and greeted her something wonderful happened.**

Turn Elizabeth to face Mary and hold your hand over Elizabeth in the sign of blessing when you say "God's Holy Spirit ...".

**Elizabeth felt her baby jump inside her when she heard Mary's voice. God's Holy Spirit told Elizabeth that Mary was going to have a baby who would be God's own son.**

**Elizabeth was full of joy and said to Mary, 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is your baby'.**

**Mary began to sing a song of great joy giving praise and thanks to God.**

**Mary stayed with Elizabeth for a long visit before returning home to prepare for the birth of her son.**

*Walk Mary back down the road.*

*Pause and sit with the story for a while before engaging the students with some 'I wonder' statements:*

- **I wonder how Mary felt when she was traveling to see Elizabeth**
- **I wonder how Elizabeth felt about Mary staying with her**
- **I wonder what Mary and Elizabeth talked about**

*Carefully pack story materials into storage box and put on shelf. Ensure that children are watching so they know how to pack the materials away and where to find them.*