[Narrator] Today's story is about Mary the mother of Jesus. God asked her to do some very important work, choosing her to be Jesus' Mother. She celebrated the fact that Jesus, her son, would teach us about God's love. In our story, we will see Mary celebrating the fact that God asked her to do this very important work. Let's meet the people in our story, Mary, the angel Gabriel and her older cousin Elizabeth and learn from them about how God's people celebrate.

[scene] Angel Gabriel approaches Mary as she is sitting]

[Gabriel] Mary,

[Mary] Who are you?

[Gabriel] My name is Gabriel, and God sent me to tell you that he has a very important job for you. You are going to have a son named Jesus. He will show God's people how much God loves them and more. Because you will do the very important work of being Jesus' mother people will call you blessed. [Mary]Gabriel, how can that be, I'm not married, at least not yet.

[Gabriel] Don't be afraid Mary. The holy Spirit will be with you through everything. God is starting to do amazing things. Do you know about your cousin Elizabeth who nobody thought could have a baby?

[Mary] Yes, but she is finally going to have one, isn't that wonderful?

[Narrator] Mary was very excited about being selected by God to be the mother of Jesus. She really wanted to celebrate with someone, but who? That's when she got the idea of visiting her cousin Elizabeth. God was obviously doing amazing things in Elizabeth's life and Elizabeth would understand and they could celebrate together. So Mary went to visit Elizabeth.

[Elizabeth] Cousin Mary, I'm so glad you've come to visit us for awhile.

[Mary] Well, I've had some strange things happen to me. I know that they are all good, but I'm trying to understand. I've always looked up to you as someone who was wise and who could help others understand what God was asking them to do.

[Elizabeth] Thank you Mary, so tell me what is going on.

[Mary] Well, I had a vision that an angel came to me and told me that God was blessing me and that I was going to have a baby. I said great, after Joseph and I got married that would be wonderful but he told me that it wasn't going to happen that way. Elizabeth, I think I'm going to have a baby and I'm not married but I think that this is something that God wants me to do.

[Elizabeth] Well, that explains it. When you came in my baby seemed to jump up inside of me. I think that he is excited about your child, just like I am. I know it might be a little tough but I think that God is blessing you.

[Mary] Thanks Elizabeth, that's how I feel but it sure helps to hear it from someone else. I know that my baby Jesus will lead our people. He'll show the rich how to share, and help us learn to share our food and everything else so that people who are hungry have enough to eat and people who take their good things for granted will learn to appreciate them.

[Narrator] So Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months as they both celebrated all of the great things that their children would do and teach their people. Because they did they taught us about celebrating God's love for us and how we should love each other. So, we can celebrate with Mary and Elizabeth, celebrate Jesus and how he showed us about how to love God and each other.