[note: Fingerspell names in UPPER CASE letters.]

Luke 1:31-33 (Sermon by Rev. Ron Friedrich)
The angel said, "Don't be afraid, MARY. God is good to you. You will become pregnant and have a son, and you will name the boy, Jesus. That boy will be-truly great and will be named the Son of the Most High God. And the Lord will give Jesus the throne of HIS father DAVID. Jesus will be king over the people of God forever, and HIS kingdom will never end."

Now imagine you calendar...
Flip it back 1,500 years before Jesus' birth.

Jewish people were slaves in Egypt.
They suffered 400 years.
Finally [succeed], God decided to proceed,
        leading Israel out to freedom.

And the man God chose to lead the people out,
        his name was MOSES.

Moses.
His Jewish name means... what?   "Bring out."

Do you remember how Moses got his name?
The Egyptian daughter of the king
        found baby Moses in a basket in the river.
She lifted Moses out from the water,
        therefore, Moses got that name: "Bring out."

Moses grew and became a man -- an old man: 80 years old!
God chose that old man named "Bring out"
        to bring HIS people out from Egypt.

After God [finished] led the people out,
then God led the people in,
        into the "promise land,"
        that land God already promised to Abraham 500 years before,
        that land today we name "Israel."

And who did God choose to lead His people into their new home?

Moses? No.

The next leader for Israel was a man named JOSHUA.
And his name means what?
JOSHUA means: "The Lord saves [safe]."

JOSHUA...
That is how we spell then name from the Hebrew Old Testament.

But in the Greek New Testament, we spell that same name a little
differently.

In the New Testament, we spell the name JOSHUA how? J E S U S.

Yes, JOSHUA in Hebrew and JESUS in Greek are the same names!

But Mary didn't speak Greek in her home. The Bible New Testament is
written in Greek, but Mary and Joseph spoke Hebrew - or really, a
language similar to Hebrew, a language named ARAMAIC.

When the Angel told Mary the name for her baby,
the angel told Mary to name that baby JOSHUA,
        meaning... "The Lord Saves!"

The first Joshua in the Old Testament led God's people into that new home
land God already promised to them.

The last Joshua leads us into that home land God already promised to us,
that land we name "HEAVEN."

Our lesson in Luke talks about the angel appearing to Mary.
Matthew tells about the angel appearing later to Joseph with the same
news.   Matthew also heard the angel say, "You will name the baby
JESUS." ...JOSHUA ...the Lord Saves.

The angel told Mary about Jesus' connection with their ancestor, King
David.

But the angel told Joseph <u>how</u> Jesus will save us. The angel said, "You will name the baby JESUS, because <u>He will save His people from their sins</u>."

In the Old Testament. God saved Israel from slavery in Egypt.
Now God saves all of us from our slavery to sin.

In the Old Testament, Joshua led Israel to defeat their enemies who tried to kick the Jews out from their home land.

On the cross, Jesus defeated the devil,
      that one who tries to get us kicked out from heaven.
Jesus defeated our enemy with His crucifixion.

In the Old Testament, after Israel settled, living in their home land,
their enemies around them continued to bother them.

But after we settle into our new home land, heaven,
our enemy, the devil, can bother us <u>no more</u>!

The angel told Mary, " *You will name the boy, Jesus."*

Every time Mary said her son's name in the Hebrew language,
      she could remember what that name means,
      she could remember JESUS means Savior.

Every time we sign "Jesus,"
      we can remember what Jesus did to save us.

Every time we sign "Jesus,"
      we remember His crucifixion, suffering, and death...
      all that He accepted for us.

Every time I sign "Jesus,"
      I remember He is not only Savior for the world,
      I remember He is MY Savior!

Every time you sign, "Jesus,"
      you remember He is YOUR Savior!

The angel told Mary,
      not only Her son's name - JESUS.
The angel told Mary,
      who her son is.
"*He will be named the Son of the Most High God.*"

Jesus, born from Mary, is <u>true man</u>.
The Bible teaches that Jesus is also <u>true God</u>.
Not half-man and half-God.
No, Jesus is 100% human, <u>and</u> 100% holy God.

Some religions teach that
      Jesus started human,
           then became Christ,
              and then became God.

Is that true?

No! The Bible teaches first: Christ is God, from eternity.
Then in Christ, God became man.
God put-on human flesh.
God became same-as us.

Adam and Eve first sinned, trying to become equal with God.
That planned failed.
That sin brings death into our world.

So God became human, equal with us.
And in His death on the cross,
Jesus Christ saved us from sin, death, and hell.
And His plan succeeded!

God used Mary to bring Jesus <u>into</u> the world.
Now God uses <u>us</u> to bring Jesus <u>out</u> to our world.

Amen.