



Gabriel Visits Mary

Luke 1:26-58

God Statement: Jesus is God's Gift

KEY VERSE: "A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us."
(Isaiah 9:6a, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is God's Gift

In today's lesson, we are going to continue learning about how Jesus is God's Gift.

SAY:

Last week, we talked a lot about gifts. Does anyone remember our God Statement? Jesus is God's Gift, that's right! It's Christmas time, and we heard the first part of the Christmas story, about Zechariah and Elizabeth. Who do you think we might learn about this week? Any guesses? *Pause for responses.* We're going to learn about Mary today.

Mary is a very important part of the Christmas story, and Mary had a very special visitor. Let's make a craft that might give us a hint who that special visitor was.

MAKE:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Angel Gabriel Wings Craft

Supplies: scissors, Gabriel angel cardstock page, markers/crayons, glue sticks

Say: *Today we are going to hear a very special story about an angel! His name was Gabriel and he delivered a special message. Let's decorate our pictures and talk about what we see. What message do you think Gabriel is bringing to this person in our picture?*

Directions: Pass out a card stock page of Gabriel and Mary to each child. Have them cut along the dotted line to remove the section with the wings. Help children cut out the wings if needed. Children can cut out the wings and glue them to Gabriel's back. They can then color the surrounding picture. When children move/shake the page, the wings will move.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WORSHIP & CHLOE'S RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

CHLOE'S RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Chloe's Rules in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

***** After Worship & Chloe's Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides.*****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says “hot” or “cold” to give them clues if they’re getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

“A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us.”
(Isaiah 9:6a, NIRV)

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: “Jesus” name in Frame

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

Hmm... What does this look like? It must be pretty important because it’s framed so nicely. What is that word? It says Jesus, that’s right! Is Jesus a pretty important and special name? Yes! I wonder how this **framed name of Jesus** relates to our Big God Story. Do you know what time it is? It’s time for us to dive into God’s Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Gabriel Visits Mary

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: none

Prepare ahead: Read through leader instructions

Leader Instructions: Leader, the kids are going to give you phrases about God and you're going to make them into a song or spoken word. Feel free to change it up and repeat. Try to say the phrases in a rhythmic way.

Example:

God is great. (Say fast or slowly.)

He saves us.

God is Promise Keeper.

He is in control.

He loves us.

Ideas: You can have half the room say one line and the other half echo it.

You can have the boys say one phrase and the girls say another.

Then everybody says the last line together. Make it fun and roll with it.

Everybody could clap in a strong rhythm to match the words.

Elizabeth and Mary had lots of good news! And special babies! They were so happy, they burst into song. Mary said or sang a whole song about how great God is.

Let's make our own song praising God.

Who can think of something really great about God?

Let's come up with 4 or 5 things about God that tell us about Him. Maybe a God statement.

Use the kids' words to repeat into a rhythmic saying.

You can sing or say this anytime you want to praise God.
You can make up another song when you want to praise Him.
Sometimes, when things are hard, the best thing we can do is praise God because it helps us remember all the good He has done for us too!

He loves to hear you worship, anytime, anywhere, any way.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Compassion & Offering slides.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

******After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.******

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Friends, always remember that you can always worship God anytime. He loves to have you worship Him. Just as the Bible says: "Sing to the Lord a new song!"

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers **(10 minutes)**

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Briefly retell the Bible story (Luke 1:26-58).**

What big news did the Angel share with Mary? (She was going to have a child and name him Jesus).

2. **What did Mary do after hearing the news from Gabriel?** (She sang and praised God).
3. **What was so special about this baby that Mary would have?** (He would be the Son of God, Jesus!)
4. **Mary didn't feel worthy to be given such an important role. Do you know that God loves you right now, just as you are? How does that make you feel?**
5. **Turn to the friend next to you and say, "God loves you just as you are!"**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

Gabriel Visits Mary Coloring Page

Supplies: 1 coloring page per child, markers/crayons

Say: *What an incredible story! Mary is going to give birth to the Savior (JESUS!). Let's do this coloring activity to help us remember what we've learned.*

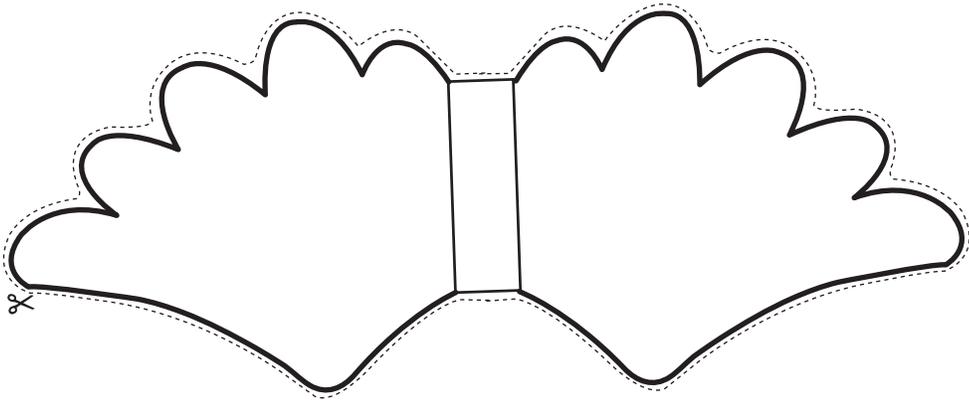
Directions: Pass out coloring page and crayons, etc. for kids to color. This can also be sent home if there is not enough time in class to complete.

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and to



Jesus is God's Gift

Gabriel Visits Mary
Luke 1: 26-33

