



Gabriel Visits Joseph

Matthew 1:18-25

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:

What does it mean to trust someone? *Pause for responses.* Those are all great descriptions. Trusting someone means you believe that they will do what they say. Who is someone in your life that you trust? Turn to the person next to you and share who that person is.

In our lesson today, we're going to hear about someone who had to place their trust in God. This person got some very big news, but they were a little unsure. Do you know who this person was? Joseph!

Can we always trust God? Why? *Pause for responses.* God is a promise keeper! God is trustworthy, and we know this because we see His character all throughout the Big God Story. Before we keep learning about our Christmas story, let's do an activity.

PLAY:

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

Trust Game – Mini Obstacle Course

Supplies: 10 plastic cups, blind folds

Say: *Today we are going to learn about Joseph and a time he had to trust God, even when he was uncertain. Let's play a game about trust to get us ready for our lesson! Let's do a mini obstacle course with a blindfold! Each one of you will have turn to try and walk through the lines without stepping on the cups! Your buddy will guide you to where you need to go. Do you trust them to lead you safely to the other side?*

Directions: Have children get into a line in pairs. Take the cups and line them up along the floor in a pattern or zig zag (make sure to leave lots of space for the children to move in and out of the cups). Have the children take turns walking through the "obstacle course".

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: Pillow

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:

Oh, what is this? What do we use this item for? It's a **pillow**! Show me what you use a pillow for. I wonder how this **pillow** relates to our Big God Story today. We're learning about Joseph. Maybe Joseph liked naps? I'm not sure, but I bet we will find out soon. 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 Joseph

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: tea lights (1 per kid)

Do you ever not know what to do? Joseph didn't know what he should do. He was confused. Things weren't turning out the way he thought they would.

That happens to us sometimes.

- Maybe you didn't make the team.
- Maybe you had to move.
- Maybe your friend moved.
- Maybe you have a big decision to make.

What should you do? Joseph was thinking about what to do. He even made plans about what to do. But then, an angel showed up to tell Joseph what God wanted him to do.

- We don't usually hear from an angel, but we can still talk to God.
- God can help us know what to do.
- What are some ways God can lead us?

Let the kids answer. Examples – through the Bible, friends, parents, songs. Add these things if the kids don't say them.

Those are all great examples of how God can lead us. God is so good and He loves us!

Have teachers/LITs give everyone a tea light.

As you get this special light, you can turn it on. Look at your light quietly. Now, look around and see all your friends praying to God. We're going to take a few minutes to sit quietly and talk to God. We can talk to God about anything as we look at these lights, but here's some specific things you can talk to Him about:

- Pray about a decision you must make.
- Pray for your family.
- Pray for your teacher.
- Pray for yourself.

When you are finished praying, quietly turn off the light and put it in the bins around the room. Return quietly to your seat as we let everyone finish praying.

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.

The Bible says in Psalm 25:4-5, “Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me.”

Friends, just as we prayed and lit our lights, whenever you see lights this Christmas season, remember that God will guide you. Just ask Him.

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 (Matthew 1:18-25).**

What was the name of the angel that visited Joseph? (Gabriel).

2. **What did the angel say to Joseph? (He was going to be Jesus’ dad).**
3. **What does the name Immanuel mean? (God with us).**
4. **God is trustworthy. God is always with us. How does that make you feel to know that?**
5. **Let’s all say “Jesus is God’s Gift” together!**

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.

MAKE - Gabriel Angel Cup

Supplies: 1 cup per child, glitter pipe cleaner, doily, paper circle, glue sticks, markers/crayons

Say: *Today we got to hear about Gabriel again! Who remembers what Gabriel did last week? What news did he bring? What did he do this week? (Give students time to answer). Let's make an angel to remind us of the Angel Gabriel!*

Directions: Pass out one foam cup, one doily, one glitter pipe cleaner, and one paper circle to each child. Have children start by placing their cups upside-down. Have the children fold the doily in half to make wings, and glue them on the back of their cup. Have them take the pipe cleaner and make one end into a circle for a halo. Use the other end of the pipe cleaner to poke into the top part of the cup (the bottom of the cup). Take the paper circle and draw a face (it can be a detailed face or a simple smiley face). Then have the children glue their circle to the top front part of the cup.



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