



Lesson  
**15**

1st-4th

# GABRIEL VISITS MARY & JOSEPH

December 14 & 15

**GOD HAS  
A PLAN**



## LESSON GOAL:

**Background:** Mary and Joseph were engaged to one another, but weren't married yet. God sent an angel, named Gabriel, to appear to both Mary and Joseph. The angel told them that Mary would give birth to God's Son, who would be called Immanuel, which means God with us. Even though both Mary & Joseph were unsure and nervous, they trusted God's plan to bring the greatest gift of all, Jesus!

**Lesson Goal:** For kids to understand that, because of sin, we are all separated from God and need a savior. But God had a plan. Mary & Joseph had to trust God's plans for them. . God has plans for each of our lives too and He wants us to trust Him.

**Luke 1:26-28 & Matthew 1:18-21**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### Christmas Eve Services

10 AM • 12 PM • 2 PM • 4 PM • 6 PM

\*Southwest Campus: 2 PM & 4 PM only

**THEME FOR THIS SERIES:**  
Antarctic Adventure



## KEY VERSE:

**“A child will be born to us.  
A son will be given to us.**

He will rule over us.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God.”.

**Isaiah 9:6 (NIRV)**

*shortened version for younger kids is in bold*

## MISSION FOCUS:

### Serving by Praying

The holiday season looks different for each of us. It's not always full of joy and laughter. Some of our friends are experiencing hard things or feeling sad. We can serve other by praying for them when they are in need or feeling sad.

This week, encourage kids to think of one person they can pray for. They can take a couple minutes each day to pray for the person to find hope and peace in Jesus. If kids in your class are going through something hard, invite them to pray with you about their situation!

10 min  
after the start  
of service

## CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.

### SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! Do you have any offering to put in our offering bin? *(Direct child to offering station)*

When you're done, grab today's **Lesson Card**. Look up the Bible passage in your own Bible or a classroom Bible and leave your card there as a bookmark. Then, you can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

20  
min

## EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



### DISCUSS: God Has a Plan!

Help kids connect relationally by asking them about their week, then discuss the lesson topic for the day and read the Bible passage together.

### SAY:

Let's take turns sharing 3 words about our week. I'll go first!  
*Share your 3 words then invite the next child to share.*

### SAY:

Today, we are learning about how **God Has a Plan**. This story comes from the Bible in **Luke 1:26-28 & Matthew 1:18-21!** Can you open your Bible to the passage with me so we can read it together?

### DO:

Read the Bible passage aloud or pick a child to read it aloud.



## CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by thinking through the Big 3 questions and how the lesson relates to them, personally.



### SAY:

Let's answer **THE BIG 3** questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

**1. Who was our story about today?**

Mary, Joseph, & the angel Gabriel

**2. What was the problem?**

The people (including us) were in need of a savior because our sin separates us from God.

**3. What did God do?**

God had a plan to bring a savior, Jesus, into the world by using Mary & Joseph the plan. God sent an angel to tell them the news that Mary would become pregnant.



## MAKE: Gabriel Visits Mary Activity Page

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

**Supplies:** Angel and Mary page, wings, glue, markers/crayons, God statement sticker



### DO:

Pass out one angel page to each child. Help the children use glue to attach the wings to the back of the angel. Then allow each child to color their craft page. When they are done, have them add their God statement sticker to their craft.



### SAY:

God has a plan! Today we get to learn about how an angel visited Mary and Joseph. God had a very special plan for them. Let's make a special craft to get us ready for our story today.



## CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.



# Craft Example



25  
min

# LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God through Worship, an engaging Bible story and a time of response.



## EXPECTATIONS

As kids transition to Large Group time, play the expectations video.



## HOST MOMENT

After the Large Group expectations video is finished, the Host should welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.



### SAY:

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Let's take a few minutes to look at our Missions project for the day and our Key Verse.

### MISSION FOCUS

Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.

### KEY VERSE

Introduce the key verse then have the kids watch the Key Verse video.

### PRAY FOR WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON



## WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

**SONG 1:** Star of the Morning

**SONG 2:** Angels We Have Heard



## LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.



## WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet time of responding to what God is teaching them.



## BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

*May you remember that God created you, God loves you, and God has a plan for you!*



## TRANSITION

After the blessing, the Host should dismiss the kids to return quietly to their classroom (if applicable) and transition to Respond.

# WORSHIP RESPONSE



## REFLECT: God Has a Plan!

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

### Worship Response Station

**Supplies:** none



#### SAY:

God sent an angel, Gabriel, to appear to both Mary and Joseph. The angel told them that Mary would give birth to God's Son, who would be called Immanuel, which means God with us. Even though both Mary & Joseph were unsure and nervous, they trusted God's plan to bring the greatest gift of all, Jesus! God used two ordinary people, Mary & Joseph, as part of His extraordinary plan. God can use us to do extraordinary things, too. God has a plan for us!



#### DO:

- Ask the kids to quietly participate in the following activity. Say:
  - ***God used an angel to tell Mary & Joseph His big plan for them. I wonder what it would have been like to have an angel visit.***
  - ***I'm sure Mary & Joseph were probably a little nervous when the angel visited them. And they were probably a little scared about God's plans.***
  - ***But both Mary & Joseph had to trust God's plans! And God wants us to trust His plans for us, too!***
  - ***We're going to take a few moments to quiet our minds and bodies and spend time with God. Talk to God about His plans for you. Are they scary? Confusing? Do you have a hard time trusting His plans?***
    - Have kids get comfortable (lay down, spread out, etc) and close their eyes. Once kids get squirmy, invite them to sit back up.
  - ***God wants us to trust His plans for our lives, even when it's hard or scary!***
- Close the time by praying over the kids.



## BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.



#### SAY:

*May you remember that God created you, God loves you, and God has a plan for you!*

15  
min

# RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



## APPLY: Why Does it Matter?

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.



**SAY:**

**Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!**

**1. Who was our story about today?**

Mary, Joseph, & the angel Gabriel

**2. What was the problem?**

The people (including us) were in need of a savior because our sin separates us from God.

**3. What did God do?**

God had a plan to bring a savior, Jesus, into the world by using Mary & Joseph the plan. God sent an angel to tell them the news that Mary would become pregnant.

**4. Why does this matter to me?**

Sometimes it's hard to understand or trust in God's plans because we only see a tiny piece of the plan. But God wants us to trust Him!

**5. How can I apply this to my own life?**

Example: We can spend time praying and asking God to help us trust His plans.



## PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together. Use the Prayer Tags from Check-In to write down prayer requests to take home and pray for during the week.



**SAY:**

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud.



**DO:**

Invite kids to pray for each other, then the leader closes in prayer.

As parents  
arrive after  
service

# CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



**DO:**

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing them the announcement card and ensuring they take their weekly **Lesson Card**.