



## Gabriel Visits Joseph

Luke 1:34-38

**God Statement: Jesus is God's Gift**

**KEY VERSE:**

**"A child will be born to us." Isaiah 9:6a, NIRV**

### CHECK-IN

**(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

**(10 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 learn about how Jesus is God's Gift

**Say:** Boys and Girls, we have a special holiday coming up! Yes, Christmas! Christmas is Jesus' birthday! We're going to learn all about how Jesus was born. He is God's Son and God sent Him to us.

**PLAY: Find the Nativity Pieces**

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they will be finding all the pieces to the Nativity Story.

**Directions:** Hide the Nativity pieces in easy to find places around the room. Put the stable out on the table or floor. As you tell the story of Baby Jesus' birth, have the kids look for the corresponding pieces to place at the stable.

**Say:** *We're going to look at the story of Christmas, Jesus' birthday. We're going to take turns finding a piece of the story while I tell you about it.*

*An angel came from heaven to talk to Mary. He told her she was going to have a baby! The baby would be very special. The baby would be JESUS. Who can find the angel? **Pick a child to look for the angel around the room.** Oh there is the angel. Let's put the angel right here by the stable. Who can find Mary? **Pick a child to look for Mary around the room.** There she is. Let's put Mary right in the stable. Thank you.*

*Joseph loved her very much and he took good care of her and baby Jesus. Who can find Joseph? **Pick a child to look for Joseph around the room.** Good finding. Now put Joseph here by Mary.*

*Baby Jesus was born! Someday He would grow up. We love Jesus. He is our King. Can you find Baby Jesus and put Him by His earthly parents, Mary and Joseph? **Pick a child to look for Baby Jesus around the room.***

*The angel told the shepherds that baby Jesus was born. Time to find the shepherd and put him by the stable. **Pick a child to look for the shepherd around the room.***

*Some wise men from far away saw a star that led them to Baby Jesus and worshipped Him. OK, let's see where the wise men are. **Pick a child to look for the wisemen around the room.** Put them here by the stable.*

*Baby Jesus was a very special baby. All babies are special but Baby Jesus is God's son who came to save us. He is our King. We love Him and worship Him.*

**CLEAN UP**

**(5 minutes)**

*Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.*

*Try singing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."*

## LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

*After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton's house for Large Group time. .*

### WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

### WORSHIP (5-7 minutes)

Before starting the lesson, open Large Group time by singing a few familiar songs and using instruments

*Sing the Christmas songs using the videos on Plex in the 2s3s folder.*

### BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

#### **THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Gabriel Visits Joseph**

*Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention. Hamilton has a scrap of fabric or ribbon.*

*Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class.*

**Say:** Hi Hamilton. Want to play a game? **Hamilton nods.** Do you trust me? **Hamilton looks quizzical, looks at teacher and then kids and back to teacher. He nods.**

**Say:** We're going to talk about how Gabriel visited Joseph. Joseph trusted God. Let's see how you trust me. **Tie the blindfold around Hamilton's head to cover his eyes.**

**Say:** Hamilton, do you trust me? **He nods.** I promise I won't do anything to let you get hurt. Ready? **He nods. Take Hamilton through a few maneuvers like shaking hands with all the kids, letting them pat him gently on the head, sit on the table by himself for a minute, come back to you.**

**Take off the blindfold and praise him for trusting you.** I would try to never let you down. You can trust me to try to keep you safe.

**Say:** Kids, Joseph trusted God. Do you remember Mary? **Show the story picture.** She was Jesus's mother. God asked her to do a big job. The angel told Mary that, "Nothing is impossible with God!" God is trustworthy. Mary trusted God when He told her she would be Jesus' mother. And now that Jesus is grown up and in heaven with God, Jesus is God's Gift to us!

**Say:** Thanks for helping us learn about this very important part of the Christmas story, Hamilton. We can't wait to see you next week to learn more about God's gift to us, Jesus! Bye, Hamilton! ***Hamilton waves goodbye to class.***

### **SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)**

*This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.*

We are learning that Jesus is King! *Point to the large poster that will be on the wall in your class all quarter: "Jesus is King!" (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times)*

### **WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)**

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.

***Encourage class to sit quietly.***

**Say:** Remember how Mary trusted God? That means we don't have to be afraid when we do hard things. We can be brave and courageous. The baby that Mary had was Jesus and He is God's Gift to us. Let's praise Him. Let's all clap for Jesus. ***Encourage kids to clap and celebrate Jesus for a minute.*** Yay, Jesus. We love you!

***Pray to close Large Group time out.***

### **BLESSING (1 minute)**

*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.*

**Let's remember our verse: "A child will be born to us." Isaiah 9:6a, NIRV. And who's that child? Jesus!**

***Friends, always remember that you can trust God. He will take care of you. He loves you.***

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

### MAKE: Jesus is God's Gift - Card

*Supplies: Jesus is God's Gift cards - one per child, crayons*

**Directions:** Pass out one card to each child and encourage them to color the page as bright and colorful as they can to remind them of the lesson from today. Make sure each child takes their cards home to show their parents what they learned.

## CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

*As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue playing with the classroom games and toys.*

JESUS IS



This card was made by:

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GOD'S GIFT!