



## Gabriel Visits Joseph – God Reassures

Matthew 1

### God Statement: Jesus is the Good News

**KEY VERSE:** "She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."  
(Matthew 1:21, 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: God Reassures

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God Reassures!

**SAY:** Do you know what the word 'reassure' means? **Let kids respond.** Reassure means to bring comfort or encourage. Have you ever been afraid and needed someone to reassure you that everything was ok? **Let a few kids respond.** Sometimes we might need reassurance from someone we trust.

Do you know who reassured Joseph when he found out Mary was going to have a baby? **Let kids respond – Jesus/God!** God! That's right! He sent an Angel to reassure Joseph! I wonder why Joseph was so afraid? We will get to find out more about this in our lesson today.

### MAKE: Angel Ornament

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

**Supplies:** One Angel ornament cut out and one set of wings per child

**Directions:** Pass out one Angel ornament to each child. Have them glue the wings on the back of the angel and color their angel with markers and crayons.

**SAY:** Today we get to learn about Joseph and the angel (Gabriel). Do you remember this angel from last week? ***Let kids respond.*** Joseph was visited by Gabriel too! They are both a very important part of the story of Jesus' birth. Let's make our special angel ornament before we learn more about our story!



# LARGE GROUP

**(25 minutes)**

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

## WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

### *Host*

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

### Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

*\*\*\* After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.\*\*\**

## KEY VERSE

### *Host*

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

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

***"She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because He will save his people from their sins."  
(Matthew 1:21, NIRV)***

*\*\*\* After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.\*\*\**

## OPENING WORSHIP

### *Worship Leader*

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!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:**

- O Come Ye Faithful
- Promises
- Closing: Star of the Morning

*\*\*\* After Worship, transition the power point into 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 – God Reassures**

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.

**DO: LISTEN & CHALKBOARD RESPONSE – God REASSURES**

**Supplies:** chalkboard WR station, chalk

**SAY:** God reassures! That's a pretty big word. Reassure means that God brings comfort to us and reminds us that we don't have to worry or fear because He is with us! God reassured Joseph in our story today. What was Joseph nervous about? **Let a few kids answer – about Mary having a baby.** God reminded Joseph that He is in control and Joseph needed to trust God's plan.

Let's think about our own lives for a moment. Sometimes, God asks us to do BIG things too. Just like He asked Joseph to get married to Mary and be the father of baby Jesus. But when God asks us to do those things, He will always be there to reassure us.

**DIRECTIONS:** *Have kids and teachers lay down around the room with eyes closed. Invite them to calm their bodies by taking some deep breaths in and out as they close their eyes.*

**SAY:** Let's all lay down for a moment. In our lesson today, God used an angel to speak to Joseph in a dream. Let's close our eyes and lay down. Now, take 3 deep breaths in.

As we close our eyes, imagine that God is sitting right next to you. Answer in your head - Where are you sitting? What are you and God doing? What do you hear around you? Now, ask God (in your head), what big thing are you asking me to do? And listen for His response.

**DIRECTIONS:** Allow kids to sit in quiet for a few moments. Then, invite them when they are ready, to get up and write/draw what they felt God telling them on the chalkboards around the room. Remind kids that this is an individual time to reflect with God. After everyone has had a chance, gather them back together.

**SAY:** God reassures and brings comfort when He asks us to do something big! Whatever you felt God say to you as you closed your eyes, we can trust that God will help you do it! Thank you, God!

**Close time in prayer.**

*\*\*\*After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.\*\*\**

## CLOSING WORSHIP

### *Worship Leader*

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

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

## OFFERING

### *Host*

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

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

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – ACTS Gift of Love****Host**

*Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the PowerPoint to display important announcements.*

**ACTs Gift of Love**

**SAY:** For the past several weeks each of you have had a chance to shop for a specific kid for our super special event, Gift of Love. As our event draws to an end, we want to continue to pray for families within our community and church who may not have enough money to purchase food, clothing, or other items that they need. Let's take some time now and pray for each kid who will receive those gifts. Let's pray that God will continue to meet their needs and that they will know God's love for them. Let's thank God for how He meets our needs and helps us to enjoy the holiday season as well.

***Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who will participate in Gift of Love.***

***\*\*\*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.*

***May God bring reassurance and comfort to you this week as you trust what He asks you to do! God loves you!***

## SMALL GROUP

*Classroom Teachers*

**(10 minutes)**

**Younger Kids:**

If you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well, jump into the questions below. If kids need a break first, that's ok! Have them do some jumps or dances to get out some energy before doing the questions.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (God Reassures.)
  
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Matthew 1:18-25**
  - How did Angel Gabriel come to Joseph to speak to him?** (In a dream.)
  
  - What did the angel tell Joseph he was going to name the baby?** (Jesus.)
  
  - The Angel said that Jesus would be called Emmanuel, what does the name Emmanuel mean (V.23)?** (God with us.)
  
3. **As a group reread verses 22-25.**
  - Joseph got some shocking news. When he first heard the news, he wasn't too happy. But after Angel Gabriel visited him and gave him instructions what to do, he was at peace. The prophecy was about to be fulfilled. As a group we are going to spend a couple minutes being quiet and reflecting how we see and seen God in our lives.**
  
  - As we go throughout the week, I want to encourage you guys to continue to reflect how God is faithful, even when we are told to do something that might seem shocking or odd at first.**

**Close small group in prayer.** *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

**Older Kids:**

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (God Reassures.)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Matthew 1:18-25**
  - How did Angel Gabriel come to Joseph to speak to him?** (In a dream.)
  - What did the angel tell Joseph he was going to name the baby?** (Jesus.)
  - The Angel said that Jesus would be called Emmanuel, what does the name Emmanuel mean (V.23)?** (God with us.)
3. **As a group reread verse 23.**
  - What does "God with us" mean?**
  - How does this apply to our lives?**
  - How can we tell others about Jesus being Emmanuel (God with us)?** Spend a couple of minutes discussing as a group.
4. **As a group reread verses 22-25.**
  - Joseph got some shocking news. When he first heard the news, he wasn't too happy. But after Angel Gabriel visited him and gave him instructions what to do, he was at peace. The prophecy was about to be fulfilled. As a group we are going to spend a couple minutes being quiet and reflecting how we see and seen God in our lives.**
  - As we go throughout the week, I want to encourage you guys to continue to reflect how God is faithful, even when we are told to do something that might seem shocking or odd at first.**

**Close small group in prayer.** *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*



## 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.

### **PLAY: Pass the Ornament**

**Supplies:** ornament

**Directions:** Have children get into a circle and face the center of the circle. Pick one child to be in the middle. Have the child in the middle close their eyes. Take the ornament and place it behind your back. When the music starts pass the ornament around the circle (make sure kids pass it behind their backs). When the music stops, have the child in the middle guess who has the ornament. (Give the child in the middle three tries to guess where the ornament is.) You can then pick a different child to be in the middle. Play a few rounds and then collect the ornament.

**SAY:** Today we got to learn about how God reassures us! He gives reassurance and is always there for us. We don't have to question or guess if that's true.

We get to celebrate a special time of year. Do you know what we are celebrating this month? ***Let kids respond.*** Christmas! That's right! We get to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We have a silly fun game we get to play today. Are you ready? Let's play a guessing game!

## 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 toys.*