



Gabriel Visits Mary – Jesus is the Good News

Luke 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: Jesus is the Good News!

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is the Good News!

SAY: Do you know what season it is? **Let kids respond.** Christmas! That's right! Do you know what we celebrate on Christmas? **Let a few kids respond.** Jesus! Yes!

Have you ever heard something that was really exciting? Something that would be considered good news? **Let kids respond.** God sent His son, Jesus to die for our sins and that is the best news! Jesus is the good news. We will get to learn more about this in our story today. First, let's make a craft!

MAKE: Baby Jesus Plate Ornament

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

Supplies: one paper plate, one star, one baby Jesus, hay pieces, sticker “Jesus is the Good News”

Directions: Pass out one plate per child. Have them glue the star at the top of the plate (above the opening). Have them color their plates. Give each child some fake hay pieces to glue at the bottom of the plate, then have them glue a baby Jesus cut out on the hay. Pass out one sticker to each child for them to place where they would like on their ornament.

SAY: Today we get to learn about something wonderful! Jesus! Did you know that the Angel (Gabriel) told Mary about the good news of baby Jesus? I am so excited to learn more about this with you all today, but first let’s make our special ornament to take with us.

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:

- Promises
- Star of the Morning
- Closing: Joy to the World

**** 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 Mary – Jesus is the Good News

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: GOOD NEWS POSTCARDS – JESUS IS THE GOOD NEWS

Supplies: postcard handouts, pens/markers

SAY: Jesus is the good news! Let's all close our eyes for a moment. Imagine that you're in your house, just hanging out, maybe playing a game or cleaning your room. All of a sudden, guess who appears? An angel! What?? Now open your eyes and show me on your face how you might react to that. ***Let kids share facial expressions.***

I can't imagine being in Mary's position and having an angel appear like that, but Gabriel came so he could tell Mary what was going to happen. What did Gabriel tell Mary? ***Let a few kids respond - that she was going to have a baby, Jesus, who would be the Savior of the world.***

What good news that is! Because of God's love for us, He sent His Son into this world to save us!

When I find out good news about something, I like to tell someone close to me, like my mom or my friend. Did you know God wants us to share the good news about Jesus with everyone around us? What are some ways we can do that? **Let kids respond.**

Do you know what this is? **Hold up postcard.** It's a postcard that people use to write notes to someone and mail them. Raise your hand if you've ever gotten a postcard.

Today, we're going to write a note to someone who we can share the good news with. Think for a moment about someone in your life that you want to share about Jesus with. While we aren't going to actually mail these, you can write it to someone and take it home and give it to them.

DIRECTIONS: Have teachers pass out postcards and markers/pens to each kid. Then, encourage kids to write a note or draw a picture explaining that Jesus is the Good News and sign their name. Turn on soft worship music as kids do this. After a few moments, gather everyone back together.

SAY: Jesus is the good news, and God calls us to share that good news with those around us! Don't forget to take this postcard home when you leave today so you can give it to the person you wrote it to and tell them about Jesus!

Let's take a moment and thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, because He loves us so much!

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: Over the past few weeks, we have talked about what we enjoy the most about the holidays. Being with family. Special gifts. Family traditions. But how many of you here think it’s important to give to others during the holiday season? **Pause.**

SAY: Our mission focus, Gift of Love, is a great opportunity to love the kids and families right here in our city, schools, and even within our church who are unable to enjoy Christmas as we do and purchase gifts for one another. There is only ONE WEEK left to bring in UNWRAPPED gifts such as new toys/clothes/activities/games/etc. for a specific age/gender – like a 10-year-old girl or a 5-year-old boy.

Join in and give a Gift of Love this holiday season!

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 you believe that Jesus is the good news! May you know that God loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, just for you!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids:

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

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?** (Jesus is the Good News.)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Luke 1:28-33**
 - What was the name of the angel that came to Mary?** (Gabriel.)
 - What did the Angel tell Mary?** (That she would have a baby v.32-33.)
 - What did the angel tell Mary she was going to name the baby?** (Jesus.)
3. **As a group reread verses 30-33. Angel Gabriel told Mary that she was going to be the mom to baby Jesus. And that Jesus was sent to be the most high King. The one who will be the Savior of the world.**
 - Why do we celebrate Christmas?**
 - Knowing this how does this impact the way you celebrate Christmas?**
 - How can we continue to share the good news of Jesus with our family and friends?** Spend a couple of minutes discussing as a group.

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?** (Jesus is the Good News.)
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Luke 1:28-33**
 - What was the name of the angel that came to Mary?** (Gabriel.)
 - What did the Angel tell Mary?** (That she would have a baby v.32-33.)
 - What did the angel tell Mary she was going to name the baby?** (Jesus.)
3. **As a group reread verse 33. What does it mean that Jesus is the son of the most high God? Is Jesus fully man? Why is this important?**
4. **As a group reread verses 30-33. Angel Gabriel told Mary that she was going to be the mom to baby Jesus. And that Jesus was sent to be the most high King. The one who will be the Savior of the world.**
 - Why do we celebrate Christmas?**
 - Knowing this how does this impact the way you celebrate Christmas?**
 - How can we continue to share the good news of Jesus with our family and friends?** Spend a couple of minutes discussing as a group.

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: Good News telephone

Supplies: none

Directions: Have children sit in a circle. Play the game of telephone by having one child whisper something that is “good” or “good news” to their neighbor. Then that child whispers it to the next person and so on, until it goes all the way around the circle. When it reaches the end, have the last child say what they heard and then have the first child say what news they shared. Pick another child to go next and play until all children have had a turn or you run out of time.

SAY: Today we got to learn about Good News! Jesus is the Good News. Let’s play a game to share good news with one another.

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.