



## 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.*

## WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP 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.

#### TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Joy to The World
- Best Present Ever

#### LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

*\*\*\* After Worship & Large Group 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.\*\*\**

***“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)***

## **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: Angel Gabriel and Mary**

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. Accept around three questions and then three guesses. You can allow the kids to whisper their guess to their neighbor to allow for more sharing before you reveal the item. 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.

**SAY:** What do you guys see? It’s a picture of Angel Gabriel and Mary. Do you guys know who Mary is? **Let kids respond.** Yes! Mary is Jesus’ mom. And this is a picture of Angel Gabriel telling Mary that she is about to be the mom to the savior of the world! This was pretty scary news for Mary at first, but it turned into great news because... Jesus is the Good News! Let’s dive into God’s word to discover more about the good news Gabriel told Mary.

**\*\*\* 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 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 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!*



## 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.*