



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.

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 Joseph

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 Joseph. Do you guys know who Joseph is? **Let kids respond.** Yes! Joseph is Jesus’ dad. And this is a picture of Angel Gabriel telling Joseph that he is about to be the dad to the savior of the world! Joseph wasn’t happy at first, he was actually kind of scared. But Angel Gabriel came to him and told Joseph what to do and how this is God’s plan for him. Let’s dive into God’s word to discover more about the good news Gabriel told Joseph and his reaction.

***** 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 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 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!*

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.