

LIFE POINT
God planned
for Jesus to be
part of a family.

ANGELS VISITED MARY AND JOSEPH

JESUS



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God sent Jesus to earth as
a real person.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Luke 1:26-38;
Matthew 1:18-24

UNIT VERSE

God will send a child to be
born. *Isaiah 7:14*

WEEKLY VERSE

You will give birth to a son
and name Him Jesus.
Luke 1:31

SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

December 10



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Are you a planner? Do you make to-do lists or schedule activities months in advance? How often do you set timers and alerts to remind you of events and things to do? What happens when plans change or things go awry?

Have you ever wondered what Mary's plans were on the day an angel visited her? Was she on her way somewhere? Did she have a list of things to do? The Bible does not tell us those little details, but judging by Mary's initial reaction, she was not expecting a visit from Gabriel.

As for Joseph, God knew Joseph's thoughts and plans, and God sent an angel to intervene, comfort, and guide him. The angel visited him in a dream and told him to take Mary as his wife.

The angels' visits did not just change Mary's and Joseph's plans for the day; the visits changed the plans for their entire lives. Mary learned she would be the mother of a very special son and that this child would be great and would be called the Son of the Most High. Joseph learned this child was God's plan and would save people from their sin.

How could all of this be true? Mary was still a virgin—one of the reasons why God chose Mary. God's promise that a virgin would give birth to the Messiah would begin with Mary. When Gabriel revealed this news to Mary, he also assured her that all things are possible with God and explained how God would make this miraculous birth happen.

Amazingly, Mary and Joseph did not run away or list reasons why this change in plans would not work for them. Mary simply replied that she was God's servant and wanted everything to be done according to the angel's words. As for Joseph, he did exactly as the angel told him.

Just as God had a plan for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God has a plan for you and the children you teach. Ask God to help you respond more often like Mary did and simply reply that you are His servant and want everything to be done according to His plan.



GROUP TIME

- » **Hear surprising news.** Ask a volunteer to choose a card from the bag and show the picture to the group. Ask how each picture might show surprising news. Ask how it feels when you get news you did not expect.
- » **Learn the Unit Verse and sing.** Read Isaiah 7:14 aloud together. Cover one word of the verse with a sticky note and say the verse again. Continue until all the verse is covered. Sing “Angels’ Lullaby.”
- » **Tell the Bible story.** Ask kids to listen for the surprise news angels brought to Mary and Joseph. Open the Bible to Luke 1 and hold it open on your lap. Tell the story in your own words.

ANGELS VISITED MARY AND JOSEPH

—Based on Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-24

We know that God had a plan to send Jesus—He would be born into the world as a baby.

One day, God sent the angel Gabriel to speak to a woman named Mary. Gabriel told Mary, “God is pleased with you. He is with you.”

Mary was scared, but Gabriel told her not to be afraid. He said that God had chosen Mary to give birth to a son. Mary was to name the baby Jesus. The baby would be the Son of God.

Mary did not understand how she could have a baby, but Gabriel said nothing is impossible with God. He told Mary about her relative Elizabeth. Elizabeth would be having a baby in her old age.

Even though Mary had been afraid, she believed God and trusted Him. Part of God’s plan was to choose Mary to be the mother of Jesus.

Mary was engaged to marry a man named Joseph. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. The angel said that Mary would give birth to a son, and they should name him Jesus, because He would save the people from their sins. Mary and Joseph obeyed God.

- » **Review the story.** Show the teaching picture. Ask what kids see in the picture. Ask for a volunteer to roll the cube and answer the question that shows on top. As appropriate, ask focused questions like “*Who* did God send to talk with Mary? *What* did the angel say? *Where* did the angel appear? *Why* did Gabriel tell Mary to not be afraid? *How* did the angel appear to Joseph? *How* did God plan to save people?”
- » **Move to the Life Point.** Ask the kids to walk to the first word and say it aloud together. Lead them to the other words with different actions (skip, hop, and so on) until they have said the entire Life Point.
- » **Make a Christ Connection.** Say that Mary and Joseph wanted to follow God’s plan. Being Jesus’ parents would be hard, but they wanted to do what God planned.
- » **Wrap it up.** Show “Angels Visited Mary and Joseph” video.

CHOOSE

your own

SCHEDULE

Decide when to have group time; then select learning activities to use before and/or after group time.



- » Pack Items 1, 4, 8, 9, 12, 13: “Unit 1 Banner,” “Isaiah 7:14,” “Winter Weekly Verses” (Luke 1:31), “Winter Life Points” (God planned for Jesus to be part of a family.), “Surprising News Cards,” “Question Cube”
- » Teaching Picture 2
- » Music, Videos
- » Sticky notes, half-sheets of paper, marker, small bag
- » On the papers write God planned for Jesus to be part of a family (1 word per paper). Place the words around the room.
- » Mark Luke 1:31 in a Bible.
- » See Printables for group-time bonus ideas.



BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- › Kids Activity Pages
- › Pack Item 8: “Winter Weekly Verses”
(*Luke 1:31*)
- › Bible, heavyweight white paper, tablecloth, watercolors, paintbrushes, small cups, water, paper towels, permanent marker
- › Pack Item 14: “Manger Scene”
- › Teaching Picture 2
- › Bible, wooden blocks, tape, scissors
- › Cut out the Mary, Gabriel, and Joseph figures. Tape each to a wooden block.
- › Bible, note cards, marker, letter tiles or magnet letters
- › On note cards write *God planned for Jesus to be part of a family* and *God sent Jesus to earth as a real person* (1 word per card).
- › Printables: “Unit 1 Missions”
- › Bible, Music, small empty water bottles, glue, construction paper, duct tape, items to make sounds (rice, small rocks, salt, beans, and so on)

NAME HIM JESUS

Cover the table and lay out painting supplies.

- › Help each child to complete a Kids Activity Page.
- › Talk about the Bible story. Discuss how Gabriel shared the news with Mary and told her what she should name the baby. Read Luke 1:31 from the Bible. Talk about how the angel spoke to Joseph in a dream. Remind the kids that God planned for Jesus to be part of a family.
- › For each child, use bubble letters to print *Jesus* on the top half of a paper and the child’s name on the bottom half of the paper.
- › Guide the conversation as kindergartners use the watercolors to paint the names on their papers. Talk about the idea that parents in each family choose the names for their children. Ask who chose Jesus’ name. Read Luke 1:31 again. (*art*)

A SPECIAL VISITOR

- › Show the teaching picture. Open the Bible and tell the Bible story.
- › Discuss how God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus, and chose Joseph to be His earthly father. Ask the kids how they would feel if an angel appeared to tell them important news.
- › Using the blocks, help the children build a floor plan of Mary’s home. Create rooms and use blocks to make furniture. As time allows, add more buildings around Mary’s house to create the town of Nazareth including the house where Joseph lived.
- › Tell the Bible story as the kids use the blocks to play out “Angels Visited Mary and Joseph.” Say the Life Point: “God planned for Jesus to be part of a family.” (*blocks*)

SPELL IT OUT

- › Help the kids open the Bible to Luke 1. Explain that the first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels, and they tell people about the life of Jesus.
- › Talk about or tell the Bible story.
- › Give each child a note card with a word of the Life Point sentence. Help kids to read words or identify letters on their cards. Lay the cards in order on the table. Read the sentence aloud. Ask the kids to say the words with you. Invite them to place a matching letter tile on each letter printed on the cards. Say the sentence again.
- › Repeat the steps of spelling out words with the Levels of Biblical Learning sentence. Lead the group to pray. (*writing*)

LISTEN AND BELIEVE

- › Open the Bible and talk about the Bible story. Point out that Mary listened to Gabriel, and even though she was afraid she believed God

and praised Him. Ask the children to help you make a list of the things Gabriel said to Mary and the angel in the dream said to Joseph.

- » Encourage kids to listen closely as you shake a bottle. Ask them to guess what might be inside each bottle. Invite the kids to shake the bottles too.
- » After all the bottles have been guessed correctly, play music, and encourage the kids to shake the sound makers along with the songs. Praise God for sending Jesus to earth as a real person.
- » Talk about how members of the White family tell people in Guatemala about Jesus' birth, life, death and how God raised Him back to life. (*nature*)

BABY, BABY

- » Review the Bible story. Help the kids find Luke 1:31 in the Bible. Read the verse aloud. Ask who has baby brothers or sisters. Invite volunteers to talk about ways to take care of a baby.
- » Hand the diaper bag to a volunteer. Ask her to remove an item and tell how it is used to take care of a baby. Ask if that item would have been used in Bible times or if parents would have used something different.
- » Allow time for the kids to play with the baby dolls, taking care of them. Remind the kids that God sent Jesus to earth as a real person. Jesus was born just like any other human baby. God planned for Jesus to be part of a family. (*dramatic play*)

TOSS THE VERSE

Set the muffin pan at one end of a table with the buttons on the opposite end. Nearby, place a Bible opened to Luke 1.

- » Talk about the Bible story. Remind kids that God's plan to send Jesus included providing a family for Him.
- » Lead the kids to stand in a line at the end of the table, and to take turns tossing the buttons to land in the muffin pan.
- » If a button lands in the pan, remove the liner from that cup. Continue until each liner has been removed from the pan. Read Isaiah 7:14 from the Bible. Help kids put the liners in order and read the verse aloud.
- » **Option:** Create two sets of muffin liners and play the game with two teams. (*games*)

USE THE COLORING PAGE

- » Lead kids to color the page. Talk about the Bible story as children work.
- » Say the Life Point. **Option:** Send the sheet home as a story reminder the kids can color during the week.

CLEAN UP

- » Guide boys and girls to work together to clean up the room.

- » Place the items in the small bottles and tape the lids closed. (Do not fill the bottles completely.) Cover each bottle with construction paper so the contents cannot be seen.

- » Pack Item 9: "Winter Life Points" (*God planned for Jesus to be part of a family.*)
- » Bible, diaper bag, items for a baby (diapers, baby bottle, pacifier, and so on), baby dolls, baby clothes, baby furniture
- » Place items for a baby in the diaper bag.

- » Pack Item 4: "Isaiah 7:14"
- » Bible, muffin pan, colorful paper muffin cup liners, marker, buttons
- » Write each word of Isaiah 7:14, including the reference, on a muffin cup liner. Place the liners in the muffin pan.

- » Printables: "Angels Visited Mary and Joseph" Coloring Page
- » Crayons