



CHRISTMAS TRAIN | WEEK 1 | DECEMBER 3, 2023

## Preschool Lesson

# The Angel and Mary

**Bible Story:** *God tells Mary she is going to have His Son, Jesus. The Angel and Mary • Luke 1:26-33, 38*

**Memory Verse:** “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.” John 3:16, GNT

**Key Question:** How do we know God loves us?

**Bottom Line:** God gave us Jesus.

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God’s family forever.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*Christmas is such a special time of year! Preschoolers will experience a lot of excitement and wonder. We all do! But as they get older—and as we take time to stop and remember—we hope that the good news that God gave us Jesus will become the MOST wonderful part of Christmas. So, get ready because we are hopping aboard the CHRISTMAS TRAIN, and it’s carrying the true story of Christmas!*

**Story Focus:** God tells Mary she is going to have His Son Jesus. God has an important message for Mary, so God sends an angel to tell Mary that she is going to have a baby. But not just any baby. This baby is God’s Son, and His name is Jesus!

### Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

### Morning Flow



## KID CONNECT

### WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

### OPENING ACTIVITY

(No Supplies)

Kid Connect time is spent building relationships with the kids. Gather your small group together for some intentional connecting time before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or building with blocks) or just sit and listen to each other. Ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

*Transition to Large Group...*

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

### SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

(CG: EXPECTATION SLIDE, BASIC TRUTHS SLIDE, MEMORY VERSE VIDEO; BIBLE)

LGL: "Hello my friends! How are you today? Come sit with me. I am so glad to see you here. I love being here with you!

"Here in KidCity we have three rules. How many rules do we have? (*Kids respond.*) That's right! Three rules. Let's go over our rules now. (*List rules while counting on fingers*)

1. **Be kind.** We can be kind by using our indoor speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders.
2. **Be safe.** We can be safe by walking around the classroom and keeping our hands to ourselves.
3. **Have fun!** We are going to have SO much fun, and that's because you are here!

"Can everybody follow those rules today? (*Kids respond.*) Great! KidCity is a place where we learn

about God and Jesus! And there are three big truths that we want you to know. Let's say them all together! Are you ready?

1. **I am made by God.** What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
2. **I am loved by God no matter what.** What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
3. **I am made for a purpose!** What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*

"It's time for our memory verse. Let's watch our memory verse motions and do it along with them!"

*Show memory verse motion video and then practice without it.*

**God** (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)  
**loved the world** (cross arms over chest)  
**so much** (pull hands away from each other)  
**that he gave his only Son,** (rock arms like a baby)  
**John 3:16.**" (Open hands like a book.)

"Ok, Now let's sing and worship God!"

## WORSHIP

**(VIDEO: JESUS SAVIOR OF THE WORLD, SILENT NIGHT)**

Sing the worship songs together.

## INTRO SKETCH

**(Nativity Set, Story Box)**

*LGL brings the story box with the props inside to the middle. You should have a nativity scene that includes Jesus, Mary Joseph, Shepherds, and 3 Wise Men. You will use this all month.*

"I have my story box ready. I'm SO excited to see what we are learning about God today. Let's see what I have in here..."

*Pull out the Nativity set pieces as you talk about them (barn, manger, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus).*

Look! It's a barn. Who all lives in a barn? *(Pause for responses like 'sheep', 'cows', etc.).* You're absolutely right. Let's see what else I have in here.

Hmm, a man, a woman, and a baby. I wonder who they are? Oh, I know! They must be Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. Jesus is God's son, and he was born in a barn. His birth is why we celebrate Christmas!

Before Jesus was born, an angel come to Mary and told her that she was going to have a very special baby. This baby was going to save the world AND show the whole world how much God loves us. This baby was Jesus!

Let's watch our Bible story and learn more about this special baby.

## WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

"Mary was going to have a baby! And not just any baby. Mary was going to have Jesus! *(Pause.)* Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son!

Hooray for Jesus! God loves us SO much that God gave us His Son, Jesus. That is A LOT of love! So, when I ask, 'How do we know God loves us?', I want you to say, *[Bottom Line]* 'God gave us Jesus!' Let's try that! How do we know God loves us? *(God gave us Jesus!)*

## SAY THE BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE)

Let's look at our Basic Truth for today. It says, 'I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God's family forever.' God gave us Jesus so we can have a way to be a part of God's family.

## PRAY

"Let's pray together. *(Have kids "put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.")*

Dear God, thank you that we can read the true story of Christmas in the Bible. Thank you for loving us so much that you gave us your Son, Jesus. We love you, God. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

## SMALL GROUP

**Bible Story:** *God tells Mary she is going to have His Son, Jesus. The Angel and Mary • Luke 1:26-33, 38*

**Memory Verse:** “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.” John 3:16, GNT

**Key Question:** How do we know God loves us?

**Bottom Line:** God gave us Jesus.

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God’s family forever.

### MESSAGE ON THE MOVE

(“Message on the Move Mary” Activity Page – 1 per group)

#### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Copy “Message on the Move Mary” one per small group. Tape the Mary picture to a wall at the children’s eye level.

*During the Activity:* Stand with the children at the wall opposite the Mary picture. You and the children will pretend to be the angel, taking a special message to Mary as you “drive” different forms of transportation and end with a choo-choo train. Each time you reach Mary say, ‘**God gave us Jesus!**’ Continue to play as time and interest allow.

*After the Activity:* Talk about how Jesus is special because Jesus is God’s Son.

#### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “Everyone, line up with me by this wall. We’re going to play a game!”

*During the Activity:* “Today, in our Bible story, God sent an angel to tell Mary a special message. Mary was going to have Baby Jesus! Let’s pretend we’re the angel God sent to Mary. We have different ways we can get to her. When we get to her let’s say, ‘**God gave us Jesus!**’

“I’ll call out what we will pretend to drive to take the message to Mary. If it’s an airplane, we will pretend to drive an airplane. If it’s a motorcycle, we will pretend to drive a motorcycle. Got it? (Pause.) Okay, listen for what we’ll drive to Mary. Let’s drive a tractor to give the message to Mary! (Move to the picture of Mary making tractor noises if desired.) That was fun! Everyone, back to the wall. (Pause.) This time, let’s drive a race car! (Continue calling out different forms of transportation for the children to pretend to take to Mary like airplanes, horses, boats, etc. Repeat those the children enjoy most. Play as long as time and interest allow.) Okay, one more time! Let’s move like a train! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! Fantastic friends! Let’s sit down with Mary.”

*After the Activity:* “The angel’s message to Mary about Baby Jesus was special because Jesus is God’s Son. God loves you and me so much that God gave us His Son, Jesus! That’s how we know God loves us! [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!”

## STORY TOSS

(Pom Poms – few per kid)

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Give each child a few pom-poms to hold.

*During the Activity:* Lead the children to say the angel's message rhyme and throw their pom-poms like confetti in the air when you say, "EVERYONE!" Gather the pom-poms and do it again. Repeat as desired.

*After the Activity:* Review that **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus because God loves everyone.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Hello, everyone! Come get some pom-poms!"

*During the Activity:* "We're going to say a Bible story rhyme together, then we'll toss our pom-poms in the air. Wait for me to tell you when to toss them, okay? Now say what I say!"

"Hello, Mary! Don't be afraid! *(Pause for children to repeat.)* God has a message for you today. *(Pause for children to repeat.)* You're going to have a baby, God's only Son. *(Pause for children to repeat.)* To show that God loves EVERYONE! *(Pause for children to repeat and cue children to toss pom-poms when they say, "Everyone.")*

"Yay! *(Clap.)* God loves everyone! Let's pick up our pom-poms and do that again." *(Repeat as long as time and interest allow. When the children are ready, say the story rhyme straight through without stopping for them to repeat what you say.)*

*After the Activity:* **[Bottom Line]** "God gave us Jesus because God loves us. So, when I ask, 'How do we know God loves us?', we will say, **[Bottom Line]** 'God gave us Jesus!' How do we know God loves us? **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus!"

## MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

(Memory Verse Motions Poster – 1 per group)

Say the memory verse using motions from the Memory Verse Motions poster. Repeat several times and encourage children for their efforts.

God (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)  
loved the world (cross arms over chest)  
so much (pull hands away from each other)  
that he gave his only Son,' (rock arms like a baby)  
John 3:16." (Open hands like a book.)

## PRAYER

“Let’s pray together. *(Have kids “put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.”)*

“Dear God, thank you for loving us so much that you gave us Jesus. Thank you for Christmas so we can celebrate Jesus by giving each other gifts. Help us show people we love them the way you show people you love them. You’re the best, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

## CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

**(First Look Placemats - 1 per child)**

Hand out placemats to parents as they arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.