

The Promised Son

Lesson Objectives

- The children will describe the announcement of Jesus' birth.
- The children will identify Mary's response to God.
- The children will thank God for his plan for their lives.

Lesson Text

Luke 1:26-56

Scripture Memory Verse

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.

Luke 1:32

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Mary's Wonder

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Gabriel's Greeting

Craft: Greeting Cards

Scripture Memory: Great News

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



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Mary's Wonder

The children will preview today's lesson as they make this figure of Mary.

Materials

For each child:

- crayons
- 2 craft sticks
- scissors
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- white glue
- masking tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. For each child, glue two craft sticks together to form a "t" shape, as shown in Figure A. Secure with a piece of masking tape. The sticks should be completed before class.
2. Make a sample of the Mary figure to show the children.

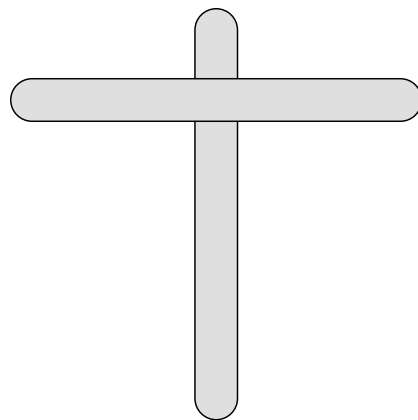


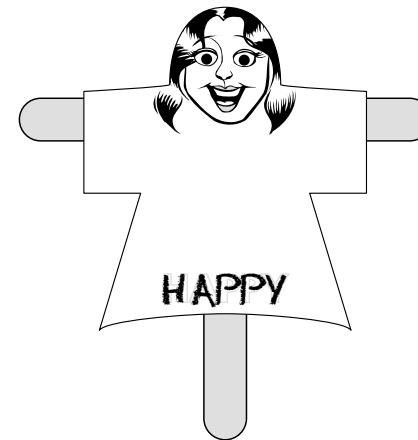
Figure A

Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Tell them that today they will make a figure of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Explain that the figure shows Mary looking both "Troubled" and "Happy." Later in their Bible Story, they will learn why Mary felt like this.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A to the children and the crayons. Tell the children to color the two figures of Mary, and write over the words on each one. Circulate among the children to offer help.
3. When the children are finished, distribute the craft sticks that you prepared, scissors and glue sticks. Have the children cut out their figures and then glue them back-to-back onto the craft sticks.
4. Have the children write their names on their figures.
5. Explain to the children that they will use their figures during the Bible Story.

Teacher Tips

- Prepare extra Mary figures for children who arrive late, and give them to the Bible Story teacher.



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God's Son
Lesson 1

Gabriel's Greeting

Using the figures prepared during the Preclass, the children will learn that God sent an angel to announce the birth of Jesus.

Materials:

For each child:

- the figure of Mary from Preclass

For the teacher:

- flashlight
- sheet or blanket

Preparation

1. Practice telling the Bible Story with emphasis and enthusiasm, using the flashlight.
2. Prepare a darkened story area by seating the children in a covered corner, or under a covered table.

IMPORTANT: Make sure that the story area is safe and not entirely covered or secluded from the rest of the class.

Introducing the Bible Story

Have the children sit in the story area. Tell them that today they are going to hear the story of an angel who came to visit Mary to tell her about the birth of Jesus. Open your Bible to Luke 1:26 and tell the children that today's story comes from the New Testament book of Luke.

Tell the children to take out their figures of Mary from Preclass and listen to you tell the story, then they will give Mary's responses using their figures.

Gabriel's Greeting

The Bible says in Luke 1, that God sent an angel to visit Mary. Mary was a young woman who lived in a town called Nazareth in Galilee. Have the children all say "Nazareth" with you, and then "Galilee." Mary was a very special young woman who loved God very much. God had sent an angel to tell Mary something very exciting. The angel's name was Gabriel. The first thing that Gabriel said was, "Greetings." Greetings is another way to say "hello" or "how are you today?" Let's all say the word "Greetings" together.

Gabriel had come all the way from God with a very exciting message for Mary. He told Mary that she had found favor with God. That means that God was very happy with Mary. She pleased God so much that God had chosen Mary to do something very important and Gabriel was going to tell her all about it. Listen to what happened in Luke 1:29-37:

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God...For nothing is impossible with God."

Mary was very surprised! The angel told her that God had chosen her to have a baby boy and his name would be Jesus. The angel told her that her baby Jesus would be a great man, and he would also be called the Son of God. At first, Mary was not sure what the angel was telling her and she was troubled. Look at the figures of Mary that you made. Hold up the side where she looks troubled. But after the angel told her not to be afraid, Mary was very happy.

Tell the children that you are going to pretend to be the angel Gabriel. Point your flashlight at each one of their figures, saying: *Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.* Have the children each hold up the Troubled side of their Mary figures, saying: *"I wonder what kind of greeting could this be?"* Point your flashlight at the children's figures in a random order. Encourage the children to help each other remember the words. Do the first one with all the children together.

Once every child has had a turn, continue with the story. *The angel told Mary that not only would she have a baby, but her rela-*



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tive Elizabeth, who was older than Mary, was also going to have a baby. So Mary went to visit Elizabeth. Elizabeth was so happy to see Mary! Her baby jumped inside of her! Mary told Elizabeth all about what had happened, and how she was going to have a very special baby. Mary was so happy!

Now point your flashlight at each one of their figures, saying: *Mary, you must be so happy!* Tell the children that they should hold up the Happy side of their Mary figures, saying: "I'm so happy I could sing!" Once again, point your flashlight at the children's figures in a random order. Encourage the children to help each other remember the words. Do the first one with all the children together.

Mary stayed with her relative Elizabeth for about three months and then she went home.

Flashlight Flashback

Using the flashlight, point to children randomly and ask the following questions. Encourage the children to help each other with the answers.

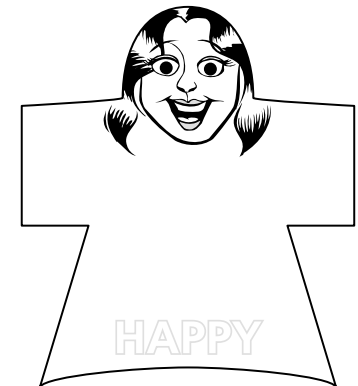
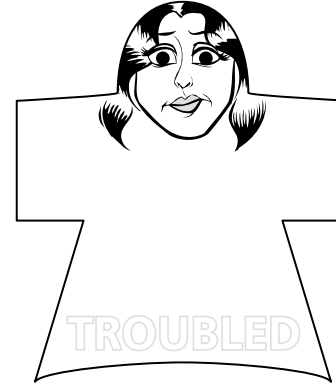
- *Where did Mary live?* (Nazareth in Galilee)
- *Who came to visit Mary?* (Gabriel, the angel from God)
- *Why did Gabriel come to Mary?* (to give her a message from God)
- *What was Gabriel's message?* (God was happy with her and that she would have a baby)
- *How did Mary feel at first about Gabriel's message?* (greatly troubled)
- *How did she feel after he told her to not be afraid?* (happy)
- *Who did Mary go to visit?* (her relative Elizabeth)
- *Why did Mary go to visit Elizabeth?* (to share the good news that she would have a baby)

Share and Tell

Mary was so happy about God's message that she wanted to go tell someone she loved—her relative Elizabeth. God wants us to be so happy about his message that we will go and tell it to someone we love! Begin by telling the children the name of someone you love that you will tell. *Now I want each of you to think of someone you love that you can tell about today's story. It can be someone in your family or in your school. You can show them your special Mary figure and tell them all about Gabriel's Greeting.* Let the children offer names. Close with a prayer for the children to be happy for telling someone about Jesus.

Teacher Tips

- Practice presenting this story in a darkened area, being prepared to use the flashlight and read the words on the Lesson Card.



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The Promised Son

Greeting Cards

The children will learn about Gabriel's greeting to Mary as they make these Greeting Cards.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 strip of construction paper, 2" x 6"
- glue stick
- crayons
- figure of Mary from Preclass

For the teacher:

- scissors
- figure of Mary from Preclass

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. For each child, cut out the "Greeting" and "Cover" from the copies of Reproducible Page B.
2. Prepare the construction paper strips for each child. Fold the strips in half and cut one inch slits on both sides, a half inch away from the edges. See Figure A.
3. Make a sample Greeting Card to show the children.

Instructions

1. *In the Bible Story this week, you learn that an angel called Gabriel came to visit Mary. He came to tell her that God was very happy with her and that she would have a baby named Jesus. At first, Mary was troubled by the angel's greeting. But Gabriel told her not to be afraid, and so Mary was happy. Today, you are going to make a Greeting Card. It will remind you of Gabriel's Greeting to Mary and you can put it on the hands of your Mary figure. Show the children the Greeting Card that you made and how it fits on the Mary figure from Preclass.*

2. Distribute the Greetings and Covers from the copies of Reproducible Page B, construction paper strips, crayons and glue sticks. Tell the children to color and decorate their Greetings and Covers.
3. When they are finished, have them glue their Greetings to one side of their construction paper strips and their Covers to the other side, as shown in Figure B.
4. Help the children to fold their Greeting Cards in half and slip them onto the hands of their figures of the Happy Mary, as shown in Figure C.

Conclusion

Go around and say the verse written inside the Greeting Card together with each child. Ask the children how they would feel if God chose them to do something for him. Close with a prayer thanking God for sending Gabriel and choosing Mary to be Jesus' mother.

Teacher Tips

- You may want to use a utility knife to make the slits in the construction paper. Always use extreme caution when using this kind of sharp tool.



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The Promised Son

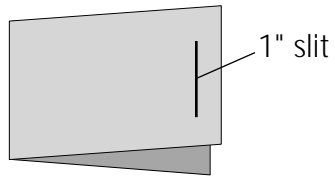
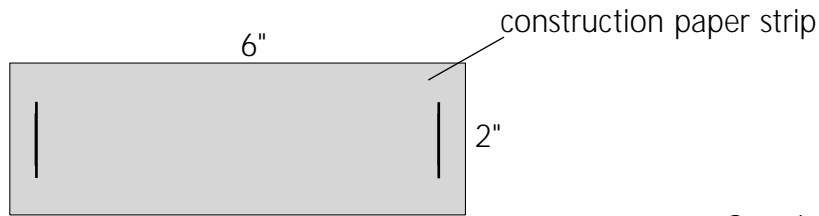
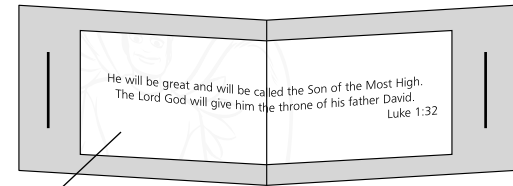
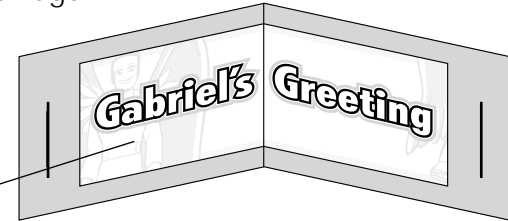


Figure A



Greeting from Reproducible Page B



Cover from Reproducible Page B

Figure B

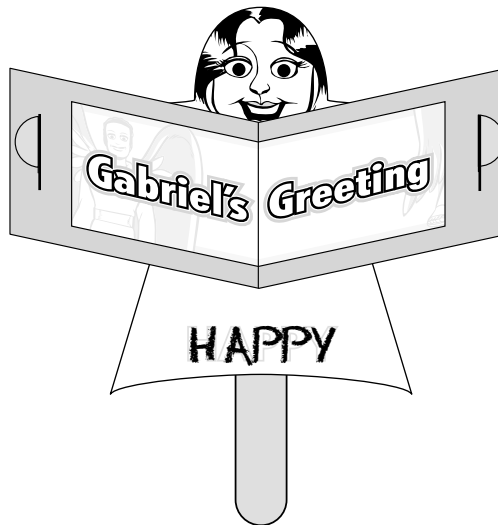


Figure C



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

The Promised Son

God's Son
Lesson 1

Great News

The children will learn and memorize the message that Gabriel announced to Mary about Jesus.

Scripture Memory Verse

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.

Luke 1:32

Materials

For the teacher:

- poster board
- markers
- newspaper
- scissors
- tape or glue

Preparation

1. Divide the poster board into six equal pieces and cut them out. On each piece, write one of the phrases just as it appears on the back of this Lesson Card.
2. On the back of the six pieces, cut out and tape or glue a piece of newspaper, the same size as the poster board pieces. You should have six pieces of poster board with a phrase on one side and newspaper covering the other side.

Instructions

1. Tell the children that today's Scripture Memory Verse comes from the Bible Story. It is the message that Gabriel told Mary about Jesus. Tell the children that when Mary heard these words it was like hearing good news. Ask the children to share what good news is for them. (going on a trip; winning a prize; no cavities at the dentist; getting 100% on a spelling test; finding out that your mommy and daddy are going to have a new baby) Tell them that the angel wanted Mary to know that her baby would be a very special baby.

2. Show the children the verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Read it to them slowly. Read it again, saying: *The angel wanted Mary to know that Jesus would be great and be called the Son of the Most High. That means that Jesus would be called the Son of God. It says that God would give him David's throne. What is a throne? (the place where a king sits) The angel knew that Jesus would one day become a great king!*
3. Ask the children to say the verse together with you two times. Ask each child to say it with you individually.
4. Take out the pieces of poster board covered with newspaper. Give each card to a child or pair of children so that everyone has at least one. Tell the children to put the cards together, face up on the floor, in the correct order of the memory verse. Encourage them to work together.
5. Once the verse is correct, pick a phrase and flip it over so the newspaper side is showing. Ask two children to say the verse, supplying the missing phrase. Encourage them to help each other. After they say the verse correctly, flip the phrase so the verse is complete again. This time flip over two different phrases and ask two different children to say the verse by supplying the missing phrases.
6. Pick up the pieces, shuffle them and hand them out again. Tell the children to hold up their cards and line themselves up, side by side, in the correct order of the verse. Once they are lined up, have them say the phrase on their cards, in the order of the verse.
7. Have each child stand up, one at a time, and say their phrase and then sit down again. Have them repeat this two more times.

Conclusion

Remind the children that God wants to give them good news, just as he gave good news to Mary. Encourage each of the children to share today's Scripture Memory Verse with someone they know. Close with a prayer thanking God for being so good to us.

Teacher Tips

- Adjust this activity to the number of children in your group. If necessary, make two sets of the verse as directed above.



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He will be great
and will be called
the Son of the Most High.
The Lord God will give him
the throne of his father David.

Luke 1:32

Lesson Objectives

- The children will describe the announcement of Jesus' birth.
- The children will identify Mary's response to God.
- The children will thank God for his plan for their lives.

Lesson Text

Luke 1:26-56

Scripture Memory Verse

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.
The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.

Luke 1:32

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Big Plans

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Blueprints

Game: Joyful Journey

Bible Skills: Standing on the Promises

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



pre
class

ACTIVITY

Big Plans

The children review this week's Bible Story and Scripture Memory Verse in this activity.

Materials

For each child:

- crayons
- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

Complete this activity prior to class.

Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Tell them that they are going to review this week's Bible Story in this Preclass Activity.
2. Show the children your completed copy of Reproducible Page C. Explain that God had a plan for Mary and for Jesus which the children learned about in their Bible Story. Not only did God have big plans for Mary and Jesus, but he also has big plans for their lives too!
3. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page C, crayons and pencils. Tell the children to complete the Scripture Memory Verse by tracing over the words, and then coloring their pages. Using the words in the box at the bottom of their pages, tell the children to write or draw the story of Mary and the angel in the space provided.
4. Encourage the children who heard the Bible Story to work together with those who did not.

5. Circulate among the children to offer help and remind them of the Bible Story.

Teacher Tips

- Be familiar with the Bible Story so that you can help the children remember the events for their stories.

Big Plans

Write or draw the story of "Gabriel's Greeting" in the space below. You may use the words at the bottom of this page for your story.

Mary	Gabriel	surprised	relative
angel	greeting	happy	Elizabeth
troubled	Jesus	tell	baby

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N**Blueprints**

The children will think about God's plans for their lives and why they should be thankful.

Materials

For each child:

- blue crayon or pencil

For the teacher:

- large writing surface
- 2 large pieces of white paper or poster board
- thick, black marker

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each child

NOTE: If possible, reproduce Page D on blue paper.

Preparation

1. On the large writing surface, write a chart with two wide columns, entitled: TELL and SING.
2. On each large piece of white paper, write one of the following words in large letters: TELL and SING.

Reviewing the Bible Story

In our Bible Story this week, we learned that God sent an angel to visit a young woman named Mary. She lived in a town called Nazareth in Galilee. Mary loved God very much and God had exciting plans for her. The angel Gabriel greeted Mary. Mary listened as the angel told her that God was happy with her and had chosen her to have a baby. The baby's name would be Jesus and he would be the Son of God. At first Mary was troubled—but the angel told her not to be afraid. Mary was happy that God had chosen her. Mary went to visit her relative Elizabeth who was also going to have a baby. Mary told Elizabeth about God's plans for her to have a baby. Mary was so happy that she sang a song to thank God!

Life Application

Divide the children into two groups. Have each group sit around one of the pieces of paper that you prepared. Remind the children that they have heard about God's plan for Mary and her response to God. Today they will think about God's plans for each of them and how they will thank him.

Show the children the large writing surface that you prepared. Explain that God has plans for their lives and today they will think of two ways to thank him: TELL and SING. Ask the children in the TELL group to think of different ways that they can tell others about God. The children in the SING group should think of different ways to thank God by singing. For example: the children can thank God by telling their friends at school, neighbors and family about God. And they can thank God by singing songs to God when they are at church, at home, in a devotional, by themselves or with friends.

Ask the children to give their own answers as you write them on the large writing surface. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page D and crayons to the children. Tell them to fill in the spaces provided with ways that they can show their thanks for God's plan for them, using the ideas provided for them on the large writing surface. Encourage the children to work together and to help each other.

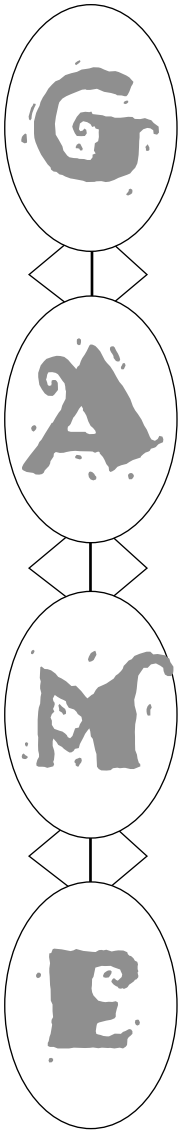
Conclusion

Each one of you is unique and special to God and God has a special plan for each of you. God gave each of you a fingerprint that is not like anyone else's. It proves that you are the only one like you! This blue "fingerprint" will remind you that you are special to God and that God has a special plan just for you! Close with a prayer, letting the children each thank God for his plans for their lives.

Teacher Tips

- If blue paper is not available, have the children color in the fingerprints with a blue crayon.





Joyful Journey

The children will identify Mary's responses to God as they play this game.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 2 small game tokens

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 2 copies for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out the game cards from both of your copies of Reproducible Page E. Mix them up and place them face down on the Journey Card pile.
2. Practice playing this game before class.

Instructions

1. Briefly review this week's Bible Story, saying: *In our Bible Story this week, we learned that God sent an angel to visit a young woman named Mary. She lived in a town called Nazareth in Galilee. Mary loved God very much and God had exciting plans for her. The angel Gabriel greeted Mary. Mary listened to the angel who told her that God was happy with her and had chosen her to have a baby. The baby's name would be Jesus and he would be the Son of God. At first Mary was troubled—but the angel told her not to be afraid. Mary was happy that God had chosen her. Mary went to visit her relative Elizabeth who was also going to have a baby. Mary told Elizabeth about God's plans for her to have a baby. Mary was so happy that she sang a song to thank God.*
2. Divide the children into two teams. Show them the game board on the opposite side of this Lesson Card. Explain that there are two of each Journey Card so that each team has a chance to answer the same questions.

3. Give each team a game piece and place them at START. Explain that they will take a journey from Galilee to visit Mary's relative Elizabeth. Along the way, they will have to do certain things and answer questions about the Bible Story. The first team to arrive at Elizabeth's home and "Sing for Joy" will be the winner.
4. Choose a team to go first. Have them choose someone to take a card from the top of the Journey Card pile and read what it says. Make sure to help the children with any words they do not know. If the child can do what is on the card, then the team can move the number of spaces indicated on the card. If the child is unable, then the team does not move and the card is placed at the bottom of the pile. Encourage the children to help their teammates.
5. Once a team has arrived at Elizabeth's house, they must "Sing for Joy" to win. In order to Sing for Joy, a team must sing the Scripture Memory Verse, provided on the game board, to any tune they choose and do it by memory. The team has two minutes to commit the song to memory. After two minutes, cover up the words on the game board and let the team sing it. If they are unable, they must try again on their next turn. The first team to be in Elizabeth's house and Sing for Joy is the winner.

Conclusion

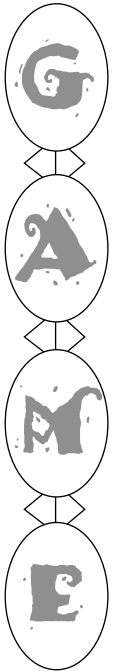
Encourage the children to tell their friends and family about Mary's Joyful Journey. Close with a prayer thanking God for the ability to tell others about him and to sing for joy.

Teacher Tips

- Encourage the children to be creative with the Sing for Joy song. They can rap, chant or sing it any style they'd like.
- Having a double set of questions gives both teams the chance to learn from each other. It is not a question of advantage or disadvantage, but of making everyone successful.



The Promised Son



Sing For Joy!

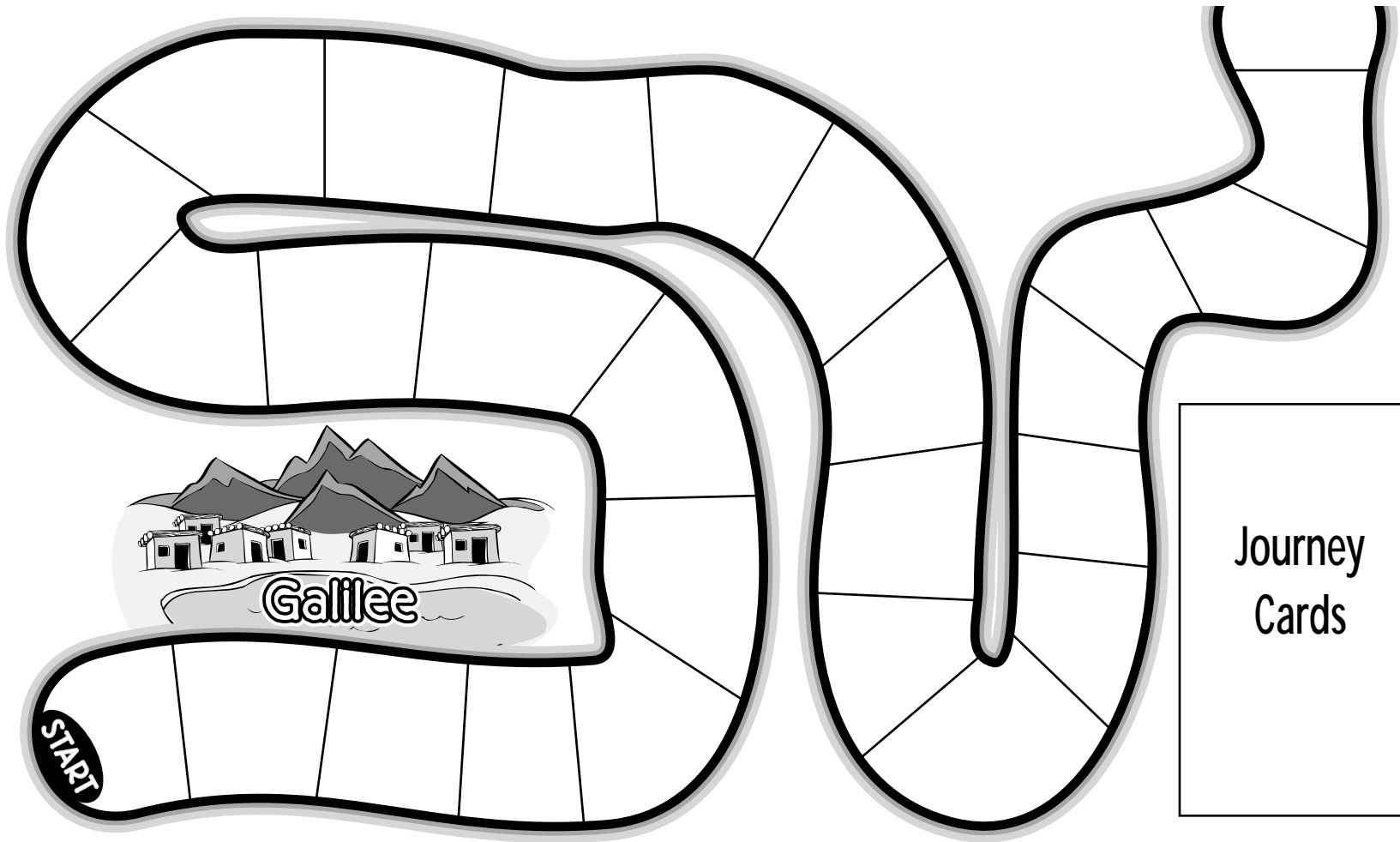
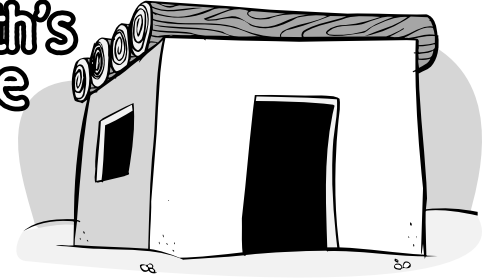
He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

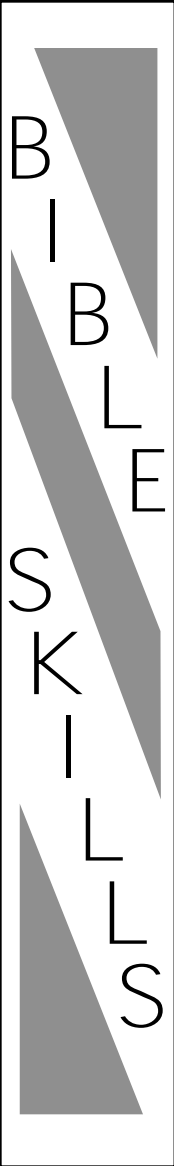
The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.

Luke 1:32



Elizabeth's House





Standing on the Promises

The children will review the announcement of Jesus' birth as they participate in this activity.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 1 piece of banner paper, 6' long
- thick, black marker
- extra pairs of socks

Preparation

1. Draw three lines on the banner paper, dividing it into four equal sections.
2. In the first section, write in big letters: Wonderful Counselor. In the second section, write in big letters: Mighty God. In the third section, write in big letters: Everlasting Father. In the fourth section, write in big letters: Prince of Peace. See the example on the back of this Lesson Card.
3. Practice leading this activity before class.

Instructions

1. *The story of Gabriel's Greeting and the message of Jesus' birth is very exciting! It is always exciting to find out about something before it happens. How do you feel when someone tells you that you are going to take a special vacation over the summer, or that you are going to have a baby brother or sister? You feel excited because you can hardly wait. That is how the people felt about Jesus. They had been waiting for a long, long time for God to send his son. In fact, the people had been waiting for hundreds of years—more than 700 years! A man named Isaiah was a prophet who lived 750 years before Jesus was born. He told the people messages from God and God used him to tell the people about Jesus. God promised to send his son, and today you are going to learn about that promise.*
2. Show the children the banner that you prepared. Explain that in each section is something that God wanted the people to know about his son. God promised that his son would be wonderful and powerful.

3. Tell the children to remove their shoes, leaving their socks on. Tell them that they will each walk down the banner and say the promises about Jesus. Lead the activity by walking down the banner saying each phrase as you go. Have all the children do this. **IMPORTANT:** Do not allow the children to go barefoot for sanitary reasons.
4. The second time, have the children begin each section by saying: *God promised to send a _____* and fill in the blank with the phrase. Lead this for the children as well. For example: When you step on the first section, say: *God promised to send a Wonderful Counselor*. Repeat this for each section and then have the children do the same.
5. The third time, have the children begin each section by saying: *Jesus is a _____* and fill in the blank with the phrase from each section.
6. The last time, have the children begin each section by saying: *I am so glad God gave me a _____* and fill in the blank with the phrase from each section.

Conclusion

The Bible is full of promises from God! And God always keeps his promises. God kept his promises to Abraham and to Isaac and to Jacob, as you learned in your earlier lessons. God fulfilled all of his promises when he sent Jesus. And you can always believe God when he makes a promise. That is why it is so important to know how to read the Bible, so that you can find all of God's great promises and tell them to your friends. Close with a prayer for the children to know and use the Bible in their lives.

Teacher Tips

- Use the extra pairs of socks for any children who may not have any.



The Promised Son



Prince of Peace	Everlasting Father	Mighty God	Wonderful Counselor
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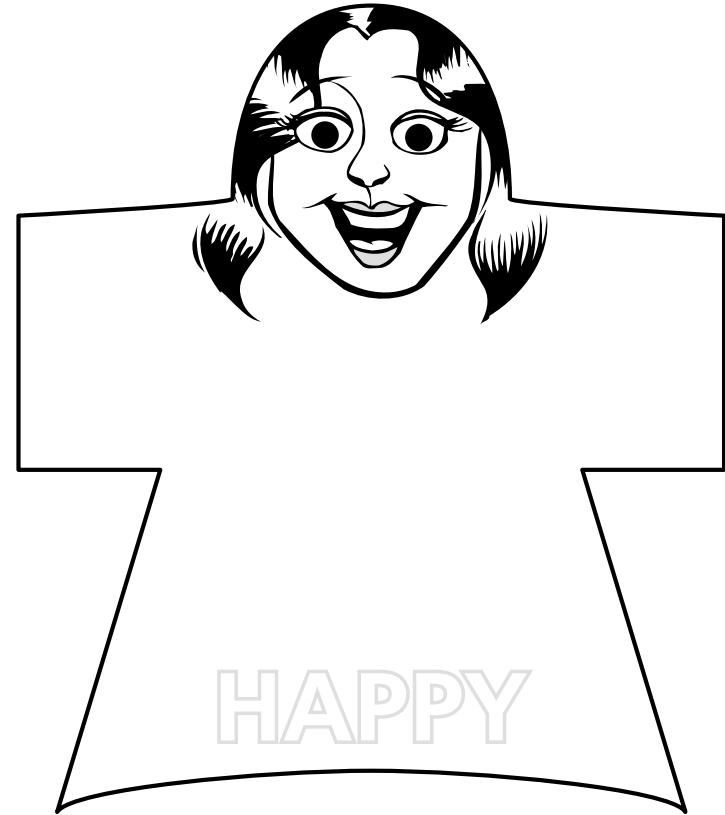
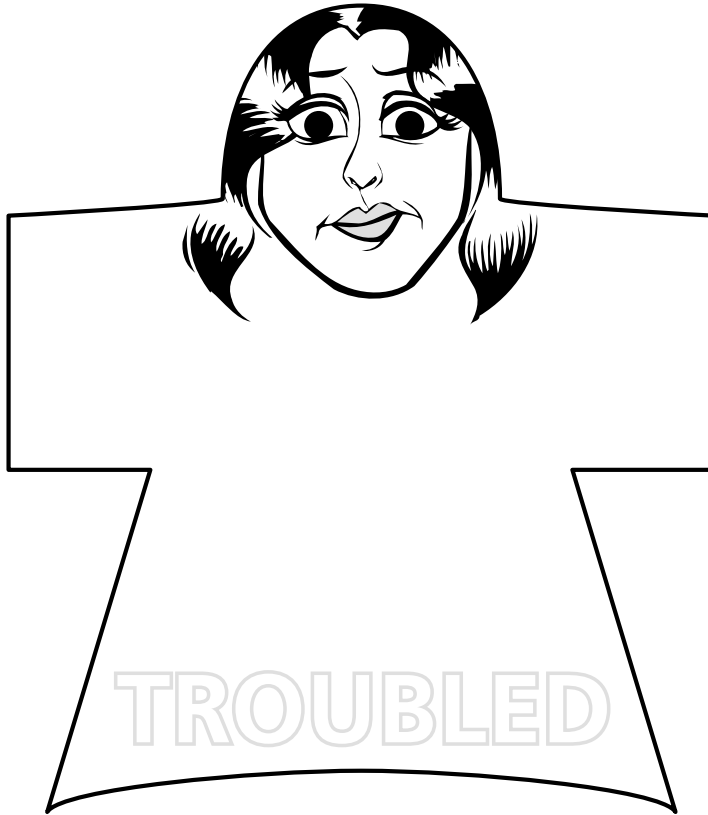


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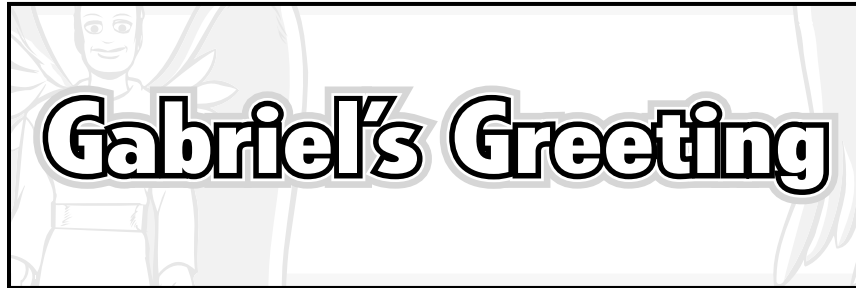
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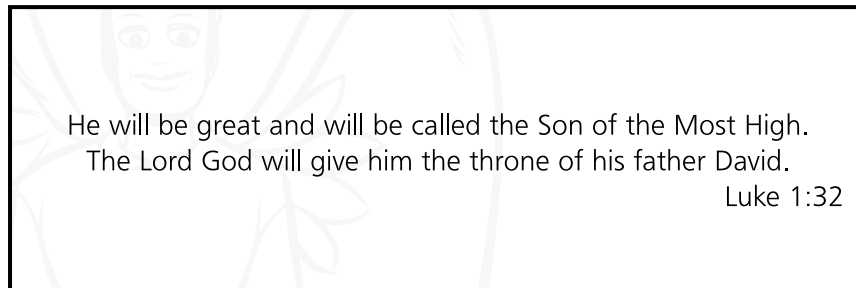


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Cover



Greeting



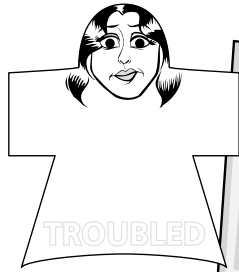
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Supplement/Preclass

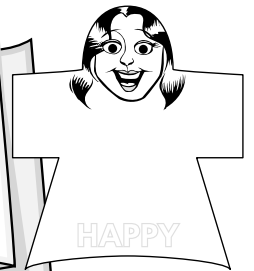
1 copy for each child

Big Plans

God's Son
Lesson 1



He will be called
the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him
the throne of his father David. Luke 1:32



Write or draw the story of "Gabriel's Greeting" in the space below. You may use the words at the bottom of this page for your story.

Mary	Gabriel	surprised	relative
angel	greeting	happy	Elizabeth
troubled	Jesus	tell	baby



Supplement/Life Application
1 copy for each child

Blueprints

TELL



SING

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PAGE
D



Supplement/Game

2 copies for each child

Joyful Journey

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E

Tell the name of the angel who greeted Mary.

(Move ahead 5 spaces.)

Greet someone on your team with a hug.

(Move ahead 3 spaces.)

Tell what the angel said to Mary.

(Move ahead 5 spaces.)

Look happy.

(Move ahead 3 spaces.)

Tell why Mary sang for joy.

(Move ahead 5 spaces.)

Say the name of one of your relatives.

(Move ahead 3 spaces.)

Look troubled and surprised.

(Move ahead 3 spaces.)

Tell why Mary went to visit Elizabeth.

(Move ahead 5 spaces.)

Answer Key

(Accept any of these answers or other acceptable ones.)

- Tell the name of the angel who greeted Mary. (Gabriel)
- Tell what the angel said to Mary. (greetings; she had found favor with God; she would have a baby; not to be afraid; her relative Elizabeth would have a baby)
- Tell why Mary sang for joy. (she was so happy that God had chosen her)
- Tell why Mary went to visit Elizabeth. (because Elizabeth was going to have a baby; to tell her the good news about Jesus)