

LESSON 3 MARY

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the Promised King

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1

GOD'S BIG STORY: God's people have waited for the promised King. At long last, an angel tells a young woman named Mary that she will be mother to the coming King Jesus.

WORD OF WONDER: A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace. —Isaiah 9:6

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: Have you ever waited for something for a long time? What was it like to wait?
- Curiosity Questions
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Word of Wonder: Isaiah 9:6
- Word of Wonder Activity
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Glory to God!



[God With Us Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the Promised King

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 9:6

Read Luke 1:26–38. I’ve always been a slow reader. During my first year of seminary, I was behind in the reading for one of my theology classes, so I blocked out time to catch up. I expected a long day of slogging through dense paragraphs, and my expectations were met. But God brought something unexpected too. Somehow, those dense paragraphs gave me fresh eyes for the truth about who Jesus is. I ended up kneeling on the floor in teary-eyed wonder, praising Jesus the King.

It doesn’t have to come through a theology textbook. It might come through a song, a poem, or a service project. It might come through a familiar passage of Scripture or one you’ve never read before. Or it might come as you’re preparing to teach kids about God’s big story. Every time we revisit the Christmas story, there’s an opportunity to hear and read anew. Who is Jesus? According to the angel Gabriel, Jesus is the promised King, the one whose kingdom will never end. Do you believe that?

It’s so easy to miss out on the truth, to go through the motions, to hear without hearing or see without seeing. This week don’t miss out on the story. Jesus really is King, and His kingdom really is coming. Christmas changes everything!

—Michael Rade

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Mary was a young woman from the town of Nazareth who gave birth to Jesus. She was a virgin engaged to be married to Joseph, a descendant of David. It is possible Mary was also descended from David.

WHAT?

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her she would become pregnant with a baby and to name Him Jesus. Jesus would be called the Son of God and become a king like David, ruling over God's people forever in a kingdom without end.

WHERE?

The angel appeared to Mary in the town of Nazareth in the region of Galilee, which was north of Judea. Nazareth is just over 15 miles west of the Sea of Galilee. Mary traveled south to visit her relative Elizabeth in the hill country of Judea.

WHEN?

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary when her relative Elizabeth was six months pregnant. When the angel foretold the birth of John, King Herod's reign was nearing its end. King Herod ruled over Judea until 4 BC.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God promised that a descendant of David would rule forever, and Daniel had a vision of one like a son of man ruling a kingdom without end (Daniel 7:13–14). These expectations are fulfilled in Jesus, born the rightful King over all creation.

Small Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: [Coloring Page](#), whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils
Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

As kids arrive..

Invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question: on the designated board:

"Have you ever waited for something for a long time? What was it like to wait?" Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following "I'm curious" questions. Say "I'm curious..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **What is some exciting news you have received lately?**
- **What do you picture when you hear the word king?**

****NEW!!** Large Group leaders will now lead an opening game or activity 10 minutes before service begins. It is very important that you are with your groups and ready to participate with them!

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Leader Tip: Kids may ask about the meaning of the word *virgin*. Keep your answer simple. Explain that a virgin is an unmarried woman. With these kinds of questions, it's often best to defer to parents, so if there are additional questions, feel free to say, "That's a great question. We can't get into it right now, but of course you can ask your parents about it."

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), My First Hands On Bible (optional)

Show kids how to use the table of contents to find Luke, then invite kids to turn in their Bibles to Luke 1. Explain to the kids that today's reading comes from the Gospels, the four books that tell the events of Jesus' life. Invite them to turn to Luke 1, the very beginning of the book—before Jesus has even been born.

Read Luke 1:26–38 aloud from an NIV Bible or read pages 208–213 in the My First Hands On Bible. Then discuss the following:

- What is the name of the angel who came to see Mary?
- What news did the angel give to Mary?
- What did Mary do when she heard the news?
- How would you feel if an angel appeared to you and told you that the everlasting King was coming?
- What would you do to celebrate really good news like this?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be your King?

"Mary was so glad to find out that Jesus, the promised King, was on His way! She shared her joy with God in her prayers to Him. We get to do that too! Let's talk to God now, thanking Him for sending Jesus."

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Ask kids to share their praises and prayer requests. Remind them that kings have power and authority. When we pray to Jesus, He can hear and answer our prayers. Begin the prayer time with "King Jesus" Finish the prayer time by saying, "In the name of Jesus, the promised King, we pray, Amen."

Make It Inclusive!

Some kids, especially those who are neurodivergent, struggle to think of praises and prayer requests on their own. Write some simple prayer prompts on a whiteboard or sheet of paper: "King Jesus, help me be _____;" "King Jesus, thank You for being with me when I _____;" and "King Jesus, please help _____ know that You love them."

Notes

SUPPLIES: Notes Page (back of coloring page)

Use the Notes Page on the back of the coloring sheet throughout the service to help kids stay engaged, remember what they are learning, and so parents can see what their kids are learning each week!

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–10 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Show kids how to use the table of contents to find Luke then invite kids to turn in their Bibles to Luke 1. Explain to the kids that today's reading comes from the Gospels, the four books that tell the events of Jesus' life. Invite them to turn to Luke 1, the very beginning of the book—before Jesus has even been born.

Turn to Page 3 of this guide and help kids understand the context of this passage.

Invite a couple volunteers to split up and read Luke 1:26–38.

- Why were God's people longing for the promised King to arrive?
- Why do you think it's important that God always keeps His promises?
- Who appeared to Mary? What was his message?
- What was Mary's response?
- How would you respond if an angel appeared to you and told you that the everlasting King was coming?
- God called on Mary to do something big! What big things might God call you to do?
- How would the world be different if everyone knew that Jesus was the King?

"God's people had waited a long time, but at last Jesus—the promised King—was on His way. And He is still the King. He will be King forever. Mary knew that something special was happening, and she praised God. We can praise and thank Him too. He is still the God who keeps His promises! Let's thank and praise Him right now."

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Invite the kids to share the things they want to talk to King Jesus about. Consider asking them to kneel while they talk to their King. Remind them that King Jesus has the power to answer their prayers. Invite a few kids to pray. Encourage them to begin with "King Jesus," and end with "In the name of the King we pray, Amen."

Leader Tip: Kids may ask about the meaning of the word *virgin*. Keep your answer simple. Explain that a virgin is an unmarried woman. With these kinds of questions, it's often best to defer to parents, so if there are additional questions, feel free to say, "That's a great question. We can't get into it right now, but of course you can ask your parents about it."

Notes

SUPPLIES: Notes Page (back of coloring page)

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WORD OF WONDER

A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.

—Isaiah 9:6 (NirV)

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), *Word of Wonder Poster (1/SG)*

"The Word of Wonder for the Waiting for the King series is Isaiah 9:6. This verse describes the kind of king God promised to send—a King who guides us, loves us, and brings us peace. That's just the kind of king Jesus is! Let's read the Word of Wonder together."

Have the kids open their Bibles to Isaiah 9:6. You might ask kids to begin reading the verse quietly and then get louder as you get to the end of the verse. Then do the opposite—start loud and become increasingly quieter, so that you are whispering the word peace.

Make It Inclusive!

Some kids are sensitive to loud noise. Have noise-canceling headphones available for them to wear during activities that involve raised voices or other loud sounds.

Talk about these questions:

- **Why do you think God's people were so excited for this King to come?**
- **Think of the words used to describe Jesus in this verse. Which description means the most to you? Why?**

Word of Wonder Activity

Invite kids to create 1–2 hand motions for each sentence or phrase of the verse. Encourage kids to pair up or form groups of three, and assign each group a phrase or sentence of the verse.

They can come up with a motion (or motions) and then teach the other kids what they've created. Then the entire group can practice the verse together using all the motions. If your group is already small, have the kids all work together to create the motions.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Suggest motions if necessary and model them for the kids to mimic. Some ideas: rocking a baby for *child*, holding one's palms up to receive what is *given*, putting hands on one's head like a crown for *rule/government*, flexing muscles for *Mighty God*, stroking one's chin for *Father*, and giving a peaceful smile for *peace*.

PAUSE for Large Group time, then continue...

Responding in Worship: Glory to God!

SUPPLIES: Bible, coloring utensils, whiteboard or paper, dry-erase marker or permanent marker, additional Bibles (1 per kid, optional)

RESOURCES: [Giving Glory Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

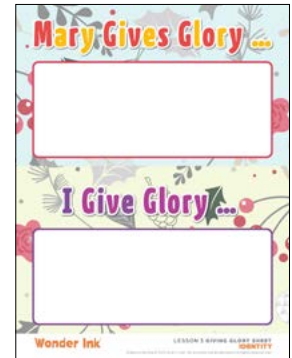
Ahead of time, print a Giving Glory Sheet for each kid.

"When Mary learned what God was doing in her life and the life of her relative Elizabeth, she gave glory to God. When we give God glory, we are thanking Him and praising Him for who He is and what He does. Sometimes we do that through singing, and that's what Mary did too!"

Let's listen to the words of her song. See if you can hear what she gives God glory for! Read Luke 1:46–55 slowly and with emphasis. Consider having kids open their Bibles and follow along. Ask the kids to share what they notice; record their answers on a whiteboard or sheet of paper. Then give each kid a Giving Glory Sheet and set the coloring utensils where kids can access them. Invite kids to write or draw some of the things for which Mary gives God glory on the top half of their sheet. If you have time, read the passage a second time as kids write and draw.

What about you? What do you give God glory for? What do you want to thank Him for? What do you see in the world around you? What mighty things has He done in your life? Encourage kids to draw or write their answers on the bottom half of their sheets. After several minutes, invite them to share their answers with a friend. Then call on several kids who would like to share their answers with the group.

We can give glory to God every day. Today, I especially want to give God glory for sending Jesus to be our everlasting King, just as He promised! Encourage kids to take their sheets home and to add more things they want to give glory to God for each day this week!



Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. You may need to point out specific things included in Mary's song that God has done (Luke 1:46–55) and explain any words kids don't understand.

Make It Inclusive!

Pair a youth or adult volunteer with kids who struggle with activities that involve writing or drawing. Encourage the volunteers to give their partners specific options to choose from. For example, they might ask the child, "Do you want to give God glory for good food to eat or for Christmastime?" Then either the child himself or the volunteer (depending on the child's abilities) can draw a picture that represents the answer.