

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.

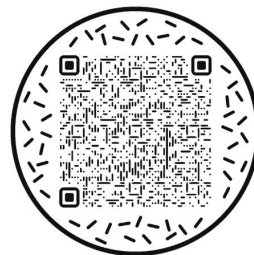
WORD OF WONDER: A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace. —from Isaiah 9:6

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: O Come (All Ye Faithful), Go Tell it on the Mountain
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[Waiting for the King Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the Promised King

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1

WORD OF WONDER: From Isaiah 9:6

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.

Read Luke 1:26–38. 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.



LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Look, it's our friend Tac, the curious cat! Can you help me say hi to Tac? (Wait for kids to say or wave hello.)

Tac the Cat: Hi, kids! Do you remember what cat spelled backward is?

(Allow the kids to respond.) That's right, it's my name, Tac. I am so glad you are here today because I have something I am really curious about, and I need your help.

Leader: You always have such good questions! So, what are you curious about today, Tac?

Tac the Cat: Well, I heard you talking about waiting, and I was wondering if you all knew how long I have to wait for my next birthday.

Leader: Oh, that is a very good question! Well, let's see if we can figure this out. When was your birthday, Tac?

Tac the Cat: Yesterday.

Leader: Happy belated birthday! Kids, can you tell Tac, "Happy birthday"? (Encourage the kids to say, "Happy birthday.") Did you have a good birthday, Tac?

Tac the Cat: Yes! It was the best day, and now I can't wait for my next birthday. But I need to know how long I have to wait. I'm just so excited!

Leader: Well, Tac, I have some good news and some less good news. The good news is that birthdays happen every year. The not so good news is that your next birthday is still a year away.

Tac the Cat: That's a long time to wait.

Leader: Waiting for things we really want can sure be hard. Tac, I wonder if the kids have ever had to wait for something that they really wanted. Let's see. Kids, raise your hand if you have ever had to wait a loooooong time for something you wanted. (Wait for kids to respond.) See, the kids understand how you're feeling, Tac. In God's big story today, we are going to read about people who were waiting a very, very long time for a promise to come true.

Tac the Cat: Oh! What was the promise?

Leader: They were waiting for the promised King to come.

Tac the Cat: A king?! That makes me very curious. Did they have to wait a whole year too?

Leader: They had to wait many, many, many years.

Tac the Cat: Wow! I have one more thing I'm curious about—how long do the kids have to wait to hear more about the promised King?

Leader: Not long! Thank you for coming and sharing your curiosity with us today! We can't wait to see you next time. Bye, Tac.

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: How does it feel to wait for something you're really excited about? Allow the kids to respond. What would you do if you saw a king? Allow the kids to respond with words and actions. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God keeps His promises? Let's find out more about what this means.

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS IS THE PROMISED KING**. Today we'll discover how Jesus is the promised King!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

"Let's say these words together."

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

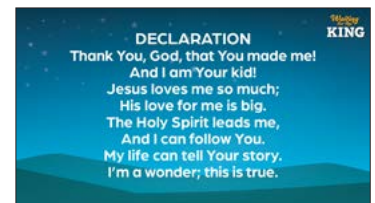
Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.



The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, thank You that we are here together and that Your Holy Spirit is with us. Today help us learn more about how You always keep Your promises. Thank You for keeping the best promise—the promise to send Jesus as King! We want to see, feel, hear, and know Your great love. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today we'll learn about how Jesus is the promised King that people were waiting for. Let's sing about how good God is!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: O Come (All Ye Faithful), Go Tell it on the Mountain

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Luke in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

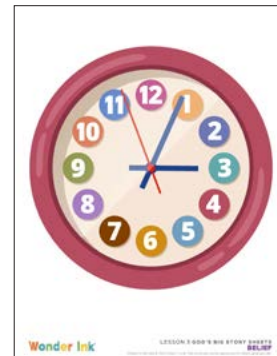
GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible

RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Sheets \(1/campus\)](#)

Ahead of time, print a copy of the God's Big Story Sheets for the storyteller and print one copy per kid of the God's Big Story Cards. Cut the cards apart and place one set in each resealable baggie (or paperclip each set together).

Before you begin, pass out a set of cards to each kid. While telling God's big story, you will hold up the large picture of each card and invite the kids to find the matching card and hold it up.



"For a long time, God's people waited for a king who would be in charge forever. God promised to send this king to save His people, so the people waited. And waited. And waited.

It was a long time to wait. Hold up picture #1: Clock.

And during that time of waiting, God was moving, even when people could not see it. God was preparing the way for Jesus. God made it possible for a couple named Zechariah and Elizabeth to have a baby. Their baby, John, was going to help everyone get ready for the special King, Jesus!

When Elizabeth was pregnant with John, an angel visited her cousin, Mary. Hold up picture #2: Mary.

An angel came to Mary and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you" (Luke 1:28). Mary was surprised. What did this mean? The angel told Mary not to be afraid because God was very happy with her. God was going to do something amazing, and Mary was going to be a part of it. The angel told her that she would have a baby boy. The angel said, "You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people" (Luke 1:31–33).

Hold up picture #3: Baby.

Wow! Did the angel just say what Mary thought he said? Did he just say that Mary was going to have a baby, and that baby was the King everyone was waiting for—the King from God who would be in charge forever?

"How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. (Luke 1:34). It was a good question. After all, she wasn't even married yet! The angel told her that the Holy Spirit was going to put the baby in her belly. The angel also told Mary what God was doing to prepare the way for Jesus. He told her that her cousin, Elizabeth, was going to have a baby too, even though she was old and people thought she couldn't have children. "What God says will always come true," the angel said (Luke 1:37). "I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would" (Luke 1:38).

After that, Mary went to go see Elizabeth. When Mary greeted Elizabeth, the baby inside Elizabeth's belly jumped with joy, and the Holy Spirit was with Elizabeth. Elizabeth said that God was happy with Mary and with the baby inside Mary. Elizabeth said that Mary was the mother of the King who God promised long ago. The King was coming!

Then Mary sang a song to thank God. Hold up picture #4: Music notes. **Can you find the card that matches my picture?** Invite the kids to hold up their cards, and then place them on the floor or table in front of them next to the other cards.

She praised God for what He was doing. She praised Him for what He had done, for His kindness, and for keeping His promises. After all, God had just kept the biggest promise of all. The King was coming! Jesus was coming! Jesus is the promised King!"

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS IS THE PROMISED KING**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God promised King David that one of David's relatives would rule as King forever (2 Samuel 7:11–13). Then Daniel had a dream of one like a son of man ruling a kingdom that never ends (Daniel 7:13–14). Jesus is both of these things! Jesus is from David's family line, and He is the everlasting King!"

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for always keeping His promises and for giving us Jesus as the promised King. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Let's pray and thank God for always keeping His promises. God, we have so much to celebrate today. Thank You for keeping Your promises and thank You that Jesus is our King. In Jesus' name, Amen.