

### 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.

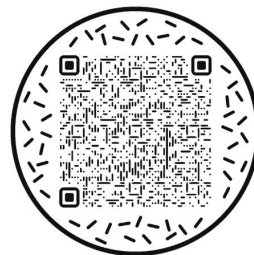
**WORD OF WONDER:** A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace. —from Isaiah 9:6

#### CURIOSITY

#### BELIEF

#### FAITH

- Play Stations:
  - Welcome Banner
  - Pack a Bag
  - Mary Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Where's the King?
- Word of Wonder: From Isaiah 9:6
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Wonderful Greetings
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Praise Like Mary
- Closing Game: Jump for Joy and Jesus



[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

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Is the Promised King

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 1

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Isaiah 9:6

## Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** butcher paper (3'–4'); black permanent marker (prep only); markers; tape; backpack or duffel bag; assorted travel items such as clothes, toothbrush, shoes, stuffed animal, blanket; coloring utensils; rubber stamps with ink (optional); stickers (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Mary Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"**

**Play Station: Welcome Banner**

**Set-up:** Use a black permanent marker to write "Welcome!" in large letters on the butcher paper. You can write in bubble letters or block letters so the kids can color inside the letters. Consider setting out markers and stamps or stickers too.

**Play:** Invite the kids to think of a time they arrived somewhere and received a big or warm welcome. Allow the kids to color and decorate the banner with the markers. They can also use stamps or stickers. Hang the banner on the wall when it's finished.

**Leader Tip:** You can leave the Welcome Banner up for the following week to help celebrate the arrival of Jesus.

**Play Station: Pack a Bag**

**Set-up:** Set out a backpack or duffel bag. Set out assorted travel items such as clothes, toothbrush, shoes, stuffed animal, and a blanket.

**Play:** Invite the kids to pack the bag and pretend they're going on a trip. Discuss what they pack when they go on a trip. Unpack the bag when finished and let other kids take a turn.

**Play Station: Mary Coloring Sheet**

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a map to someone's house.

## Curiosity Activity: Where's the King?

**SUPPLIES:** permanent marker (prep only), table tennis balls (3), opaque cups (3)

Ahead of time, use a permanent marker to draw a simple crown on one table tennis ball (the other two should be left plain).

Have the kids sit in a circle. Set the cups and table tennis balls in front of you on the floor. "**God made a promise to His people that He would send a King.**

**They waited a long time for that promised King to arrive. They were probably keeping their eyes open, watching for that King to come.**

**Today we're going to watch and wait for the King—or at least, see if we can find this table tennis ball with a crown on it.** Show the table tennis ball with the crown on it. **Let's call this one the King!**

Cover all three tennis table balls with the cups, making sure the kids see which cup the king starts under.

**I'm going to mix the cups up, and your job is to keep your eyes open and on the cup that has the king. When I stop moving the cups, point to the cup where the king is waiting!**

Start by moving the cups slowly and with only a few changes in placement. For older kids or as they get used to the game, experiment with moving the cups faster. Every time the kids find the king, lead them in shouting out, "**The king is here!**" Play for as many rounds as you'd like or as time allows.

**God's people knew that a king was coming. They had been waiting and watching, just like we did in our game. Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS IS THE PROMISED KING**, and He is on His way! But He's not coming in the way most people expect."**



## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, baby doll

### WORD OF WONDER

**A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace.**

—from Isaiah 9:6

**God promised long ago that a child would be born, and that the child would be the Prince of Peace. God kept that promise in Jesus! Jesus is the promised King!**

Have kids get into a circle. Hold the baby doll in your arms. Recite the Word of Wonder as you hold the baby. Then, pass the baby around the circle and allow each child a turn to hold the baby and say the verse. Ask the kids to speak softly and pass the baby gently, pretending they are holding a real baby. As one child holds the baby doll, encourage the other kids to do the motions for the Word of Wonder and join in saying the verse.

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

- **A CHILD WILL BE BORN.**—Pretend to rock a baby.
- **HE WILL BE**—Point up.
- **THE PRINCE OF PEACE.**—Pretend to place a crown on your head.
- **FROM ISAIAH 9:6**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How does it feel to know that God always keeps His promises?**
- **Do you think people expected the promised King to come as a baby? What makes you think so?**

## God's Big Story /Snack

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

**Read pages 208–213 in the My First Hands On Bible.**

## Circle Time: Wonderful Greetings

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock, scissors (prep only)

**RESOURCES:** [Angel Sheet \(1/SG\)](#)

Ahead of time, print a copy of the Angel Sheet onto cardstock and cut out the angel (or draw a simple angel on a sheet of paper).

**"In Luke chapter 1, the angel (hold up the angel) gave Mary good news. It was news that people had been waiting many, many years to hear. I remember one time, when I was younger ...** (share a story of a time when you heard some good news as a child, such as getting a treat after school, or a relative coming to visit, or a sibling being born).

**Have you ever gotten some good news? What was it?** Allow kids to answer.

**Now, let's pass the angel around our circle. Be sure to pass it gently, and whenever I say, "Greetings," everyone will freeze in place. Whoever is holding the angel when I say, "Greetings," will answer a question.** Begin passing the angel around the circle and take turns letting the kids answer the following questions when you say, "Greetings."



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What message did the angel give Mary?** (Mary was going to have a baby, and the baby was the promised King.)
- **How do you think Mary felt when she saw the angel?**
- **Who did Mary go visit after she heard from the angel?** (Her cousin Elizabeth)
- **What happened to the baby in Elizabeth's belly when she greeted Mary?** (The baby leaped inside of her.)
- **Why do you think the baby inside of Elizabeth's belly leaped?**
- **How did Mary worship God?** (With a song)
- **What are some ways we can worship God?**

## Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

### Responding in Worship: Praise Like Mary

**SUPPLIES:** jingle bell instruments (from Craft, 1 per kid), toy musical instruments (optional)

**RESOURCES:** songs from the [Waiting for the King Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Use the jingle bell instruments the kids created during the Craft. If you didn't make the craft, you can use toy musical instruments.

**"When Mary heard the news that people had been waiting so long to hear, what did she do? Allow the kids to respond. She sang a song of praise to God! Let's listen to the words in Mary's song and shake our bells to praise God.** Ask the kids to keep their bells still until you say it is time to shake them. Read from Luke 1:46–49:

**"Mary said, 'My soul gives glory to the Lord.** (Shake bells.)

**My spirit delights in God my Savior.** (Shake bells.)

**He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important.** (Shake bells.)

**From now on all people will call me blessed.** (Shake bells.)

**The Mighty One has done great things for me. His name is holy."** (Shake bells.)

**What are you thankful for today?** Allow the kids to respond. **Let's praise God with our own song!**

**As you hear the song, you can sing, dance, shake your bells, and remember how good it is that God keeps His promises, and how good it is that Jesus is the promised King!** Play songs from the [Waiting for the King Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the children to sing, dance, and shake the bells in their own joyful ways.

**One of the things that makes Jesus a good King is that He always hears our prayers. Let's talk to God now in prayer! What do you want to pray about today?"**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for always hearing us and caring for us, just like a good king does

## Closing Activity: Jump for Joy and Jesus

When Mary went to greet her cousin Elizabeth, do you remember what the baby in Elizabeth's belly did? The baby, John, jumped for joy when he was still inside his mommy's belly. Probably because the promised King was visiting. Let's play a game where we jump for joy because Jesus is the promised King!

Have the kids sit down. Explain that the kids should jump up when they hear: Jesus, jump, or joy. They should not jump up if they hear another "J" word, such as: juice, Jack, jellybean, joke, jingle, Joe, juggle, July, jet, jewelry, etc. Begin calling out words, alternating between words that make them jump up and words that are not jumping words. Experiment with saying lots of Jesus, jump, and joy in a row to get them jumping a lot.

**Make It Inclusive!** If you have kids who are not able to get up and down from a seated position, invite them to wave their hands in the air when you say Jesus, jump, or joy.

To extend the activity, you can play another version of the game. Similar to Red Light, Green Light, have the kids line up across the room from you. Explain that if you say Jesus, jump, or joy, they can take one jump toward you. But if you say any other "J" word they should not move.