



Date: _____

Series: Real Life Stories of God Sightings
Winter Year 3, Lesson 29

Mary, Mother of Jesus

Take Home Point: *God uses humble people to point to him. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Luke 1:26-38, 46-56. An angel announces to Mary that she will be Jesus' mother.

Key Verse: Philippians 2:3b-8, "...Humbly think of others as being better than yourselves. Don't be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others. Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Although he was in the form of God and equal with God...he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant... He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Gabriel announcing to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus.
- Mary was humble and ready to do what God wanted.
- Humble means "emptying myself of my 'I wants.'"
- When they are humble, they can have servant hearts so they might point to Jesus.




We will help kids feel:

- Special that Jesus was given to them.
- Moved to serve others.

We will help kids do:

- Identify some Christmas presents they want and empty themselves of their wants.
- Identify some serving activities they could anonymously do for their families or friends.
- Make a "humble box" that reminds them to empty themselves of thinking only about what they want and filling themselves with doing what God wants.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	<p>This warm-up activity helps the group find out more about one another and it also helps kids understand that often the focus of Christmas can just be on what we get.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strips of green or red paper • pencils • a shoe box wrapped in Christmas paper so the lid might be taken off
Large Group 	3 7 12-15	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Gordy, the Not-So-Humble Investigator”</p> <p>Appendix</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • a sign, “Real Life Stories of God Sightings” • a director’s scene board • backdrops of palm trees and first century Judea villages • the investigative reporter costume: a baseball cap with the front label taped on that reads “God Watcher” • Gordy needs a similar hat—and a safari shirt and/or binoculars • a gift-wrapped shoe box with a pacifier or some other item belonging to a baby and the note: (from appendix) • costumed character Mary with Baby Jesus wrapped in a blanket
Small Group Application 	5	<p>During this Christmas season it is easy for kids to get focused on all of the “I wants” and become self-centered. Instead, talk about ways to become humble and consider the needs of others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M&M’s • copies of “The Humble Box” or paper fold cup on red and green paper and directions on how to fold the box (see appendix) • pencils

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies needed: strips of green or red paper, pencils, a shoebox wrapped in Christmas paper so the lid might be taken off

Pass out strips of green or red paper and ask the kids to write down something that they want for Christmas. Have a shoe box wrapped in Christmas paper so that the lid might be taken off without destroying the wrap. The lid will be taken off and the slips of paper will be put in as each child talks about what he wants for Christmas. This warm-up activity helps the group find out more about one another and it also helps kids understand that often the focus of Christmas can just be on what we get.

Today's lesson will focus on being humble. Being humble means emptying ourselves of all our "I wants." Then we are filled with God's love that was given to us in Jesus. We can then be more interested in what God wants for us rather than only what we want.

Hold the shoe box upside down and let all of the "I wants" fall out.

This box was full of "I wants," like "I want a bike" or "I want a video game" or "I want new clothes." Sometimes Christmas can be nothing but thinking about getting more presents. Christmas means much more than that. Christmas means that God gave his Son Jesus to the world. God did this by having his Son be born to a special woman. Does anyone know what her name was? (Mary.)

Mary was humble. That means she emptied herself of all of her thoughts that were only about herself and what she wanted. She did something like emptying this box of "I wants." Mary wanted what God wanted for her. God made her very special by letting her be the mother of Jesus. Let's find out how we, too, can empty ourselves of all our "I wants" so we can better do what God wants.

Today we will learn, **God uses humble people to point to him.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: "Gordy the Not-So-Humble Investigator" – Gordy brags about his investigative powers. Later, he learns from Mary, the mother of Jesus, what it means to be humble.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Luke 1:26-38 and 46-56 in their Bibles to review the story. Adjust the questions to fit the reading and learning level of the children.

Whom did God send to talk to Mary? *(Luke 1:26. God sent the angel, Gabriel, to talk to Mary.)*

What words did the angel greet Mary with when he came to her house? *(Luke 1:28. He greeted her with the words, "You are favored by the Lord! The Lord is with you.")*

How did Mary feel? *(Luke 1:29. Mary was startled and tried to figure out what the greeting meant.)*

What did the angel say would happen to Mary? *(Luke 1:31. The angel said that she would have a baby and name him Jesus.)*

What would the baby be called? *(Luke 1:31 and 32. He would be called Jesus, Son of the Most High.)*

How would God make this possible? *(Luke 1:35. God would make this possible by sending the Holy Spirit to Mary and the power of the Most High would overshadow her.)*

Did Mary accept it? *(Luke 1:38. Yes. She said that she was the Lord's servant... "Let everything you've said happen to me.")*

How did Mary's song of praise to God begin? *(Luke 1:46-48. "My soul praises the Lord's greatness! My spirit finds its joy in God, my Savior, because he has looked favorably on me, his humble servant.")*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

After the angel left, do you think Mary was looking forward to Jesus the Messiah being born? Why?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: M&M's, copies of "The Humble Box" or paper fold cup on red or green paper and directions on how to fold the box (see appendix), pencils

NOTE: Shepherds should practice this project ahead of time in order to help students do this activity.

Being humble means emptying oneself of the "I wants." Being humble also means being filled with a concern for honoring God and honoring others through acts of service. This was exemplified by Mary and, most of all, by Jesus. Jesus humbled himself and became a servant all the way to the cross.

During this Christmas season it is easy for kids to get focused on all of the "I wants" and become self-centered. Instead, talk about ways to become humble and consider the needs of others. The following discussion questions will help children apply the learning point as they create a Humble Box or empty cup out of specially marked paper.

Give each child a "Humble Box" pattern.

Today we will make a "Humble Box." First, think of a secret way you could do something to serve someone else. We will call this a secret service act. Think of one of your family members or a friend whom you could do something for. Let's discuss some of your ideas. Write at least one idea on your paper or draw a simple picture of it.

Serving someone else is an example of being humble. Servants are humble and do not just think about what they want. Servants do not expect others to serve them. Instead, they serve others. Let's hear some of your examples of being a servant.

After the children share, ask,

Who do you think is the example of a servant from today's Bible event? *(Mary was a humble servant of God and was chosen to be the mother of Jesus.)*

But the MOST humble person ever to live was Jesus. Even though he was God, he gave his life for us so we would have the punishment of our sins paid for. By faith in Jesus, we can go to heaven.

Today's key verse from Philippians 2:3b-8 says, "...Humbly think of others as being better than yourselves. Don't be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others. Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Although he was in the form of God and equal with God...he emptied himself by

taking on the form of a servant... He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross."

When Mary and Jesus humbled themselves to do God's will, he gave them places of honor. God gives us the greatest privilege of pointing to him as we humbly do what he wants us to.

Let me show you how to fold the "Humble Box."

Do one step at a time and wait for kids to fold their paper before moving on to the next step. After the boxes have been folded say:

If you look in the hole of your box, what do you see? Right. The cross! What does it remind you of? Jesus came as a humble servant to give his life for us. When we trust in him, he lives in our lives to help us be humble servants, as well.

Pass out some M&M's.

Push open the little hole in your box and put some M&M's inside. Share these M&M's with others. This will remind you to empty out of yourself things that you *want*. Instead, serve and give to others. That is what being humble really means. We empty ourselves of our "I wants."

Remember to do the humble act of service you wrote (or drew) on your Humble Box. Let's be **humble people God uses to point to him*.

Closing Prayer:

Pray for the children's secret service acts of kindness and that God would help them to have humble hearts.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Large Group Presentation

Gordy, the Not-So-Humble Investigator Puppet Presentation

Take Home Point: **God uses humble people to point to him.*

Props:

- *hand held microphone*
- *investigator-type hat for volunteer*
- *wrapped shoe box with a baby's pacifier*
- *a costumed Mary figure will be the storyteller. If possible, have the Mary character be able to sing "Mary's Song" from Luke 1:46-55. This is available in many hymnbooks as a liturgical song. Optional: Baby Jesus wrapped in a blanket.*

The presenter will role play as an investigative reporter who is looking for real life stories of God sightings. Gordy will serve as his sidekick detective. A sign fashioned with the title, "Real Life Stories of God Sightings" would be helpful.

Use any props that might spark the imagination of someone interviewing Biblical characters. A director's scene board could be clapped in front of the camera before the action goes live. Backdrops of palm trees and first century Judea villages could be used.

The investigative reporter (the presenter) needs costuming that fits his role. He could have a baseball cap with a front label that reads "God Watcher." Gordy would need a similar hat. They could be in safari shirts and have binoculars around their necks. The reporter could also sit behind a desk in a suit coat and tie. Use your imagination and facility to create a setting that brings the kids into the mind-set of looking for God sightings.

Each week the presentation will be set up with the puppet drama inviting a child to come forward and look for clues that help give the identity of the person being interviewed. After the child has found the clues, the character will enter and give his or her story based around the interview questions posed by the investigative reporter.

Mr. King: **Good morning. Welcome to our special investigation where we are looking for real life stories of God sightings. We will discover the truth about who God is. Let me introduce my assistant, Gordy.**

Gordy: Investigator, not assistant. Didn't we talk about this?

Mr. King: Okay, Gordy. Whatever you say. Let's investigate a new case where we've had a God sighting!

Gordy: No, I don't want to go.

Mr. King: But, Gordy, this is important.

Gordy: No, I'm going to sit here and write out my list of "I wants" for Christmas presents. It is almost Christmas and I am running behind.

Mr. King: You're going to miss a chance to find a God sighting because you want to write a list of presents you want?

Gordy: Well, I'll do more than that. I'll write and sing.

Mr. King: You? Sing?

Gordy: Sure! I'll sing my favorite song, "Doe, Ray, Mee-Mee-Mee-Mee-Mee!"

Mr. King: Gordy, what is up with you today?

Gordy: Well, I want presents and there are a lot of things that I have to think about for me! I'm too busy with me to worry about doing some silly investigation.

Mr. King: I can tell that I am going to need some help with this. I seem to be missing an investigator so I will need a little help to investigate a God sighting. I need to have a volunteer from the audience.

Choose someone from the audience to come forward.

Good, here we go. Give us your name. Pause for child's response.
Maybe you can help me with Gordy over there.

Gordy: There's nothing wrong with (*Gordy sings*) me-me-me-me-me-me! It's just that I want, I want... I want soooo many things that I have to watch out for number one... me!

Mr. King: Speaking to child. **Do you think there is something wrong with Gordy?** Pause for child's response. **I think Gordy is not so humble. Maybe you can help him by finding the clues about a person who was known in the Bible to be one of the most humble. Because this person was so humble, God made her one of the most honored of all time.**

Can you find a gift-wrapped present in this room? If so, bring it back here. Pause while child looks, and continue when the present is found.

Let's take a look at our clues. First of all, we have this box that is empty. What do you think an empty box might be a clue of?

Gordy: I think it might be a clue of someone who didn't write down all of his "I wants" for Christmas! Bummer! No presents for that guy. I'm telling you, you have to make sure your wants are known.

Mr. King: Gordy, you chose the "I want" Christmas list instead of being an assistant. Instead I have (child's name). Let me ask her. Does God want us to be full of all of our "I wants" so that is all we think about, or does he want us to empty out our selfishness so we can think about what he wants? Pause for child's response. **Right! God wants us to be empty of selfishness.**

Gordy: Wrong! I want to be filled with presents and candy!

Mr. King: Wait a minute, Gordy. When we empty our selfishness and are humble, God gives us special honor when we do what he wants.

Gordy: What do you mean?

Mr. King: Let's ask my new investigative assistant. Who do you think we are talking about today? For another hint, look near the (insert location) for a clue.

When the child finds the baby's pacifier with the attached clue, have him/her read it.

Child: The clue: "This lady emptied herself of all of her own "I wants" and was very humble. Therefore, God gave her special honor and she became a special mother. Who was she?"

Answer: (Mary, mother of Jesus.)

Mr. King: Do you think Mary was a humble person?

Child: Yes.

Mr. King: Do you think she emptied herself of her "I wants" and said, "God I want to serve you and do what you want?"

Child: Yes.

Mr. King: What did God give her?

Child: A baby who would be the Son of God and a Savior to the world.

Mr. King: Would you like to meet Mary? This is a real life story of someone who had a God sighting.

Gordy: You mean, Mary saw God?

Mr. King: Not only that, she gave birth to Jesus. God chose her to be Jesus' mother.

Gordy: Did she ask that for Christmas?

Mr. King: No. Mary was just humble. Because of her humbleness, God gave her great honor. Listen to Mary's story. Gordy, will you get a note pad and take notes on this interview?

Gordy: Okay. I think I've got something back here.

Gordy exits behind stage. He will return after the interview.

Mr. King: Let's bring Mary out. Mary, are you there?

Mary enters.

Mr. King: Hello, Mary. It is a privilege to have you here today because you are a most special woman.

Mary: *That's not because of me. That's because of what God has done for me.*

Mr. King: Tell us about your story. When did God first talk to you?

Mary: *God didn't talk to me. He sent the angel Gabriel to talk to me.*

Mr. King: Where did he talk to you? What was it like?

Mary: *He talked to me right in my home. I was scared. I could tell Gabriel was an angel from heaven. He was wonderful! But I felt so overwhelmed and afraid. What did he want with me?*

Mr. King: Mary, why were you thinking like that?

Mary: *Who am I? I'm not very important. But if God wanted to choose me to serve him by being the mother of Jesus, I would be happy to. The angel said, "You are going to give birth to a son. His name will be Jesus and he will be called the Son of the Most High. His Kingdom will last forever."*

God was going to let me be the mother of Jesus. How could that be? I wasn't even married. I was just engaged to Joseph. We couldn't have a baby. The angel said that the Holy Spirit would come to me and put the holy child right inside me so I could be pregnant.

Mr. King: I'd call that quite a God sighting. What did you say to the angel?

Mary: *I said, "I'm the Lord's servant. Let everything happen just the way you said." Then the angel Gabriel left.*

Mr. King: What did you do?

Mary: *I praised God. This is the song I sang...* (Sings the "Magnificat" from any musical arrangement or liturgy available or speaks phrases from this song in Luke 1:46-55. Option: *Breath of Heaven* or *Mary's Song*.)

Mr. King: Thank you, Mary. Let's give a round of applause for our special guest, Mary. Pause. What do you think, Gordy... Gordy?

Gordy: *(pops back up)* Okay, I am ready. Where is our special guest?

Mr. King: Gordy, you missed it again! But we did learn **God uses humble people to point to him*. What we need to do is to empty ourselves of all our "I wants" and our me-me-me's.

Gordy: If I do that, what do I get in return? Will I still get presents?

Mr. King: Not presents like wrapped presents. But you will get something better. You'll get the *presence* of God living in your heart. Jesus came into the the world to give his life on the cross for our sins so we would have his presence in our lives forever.

Gordy: Then Jesus will live in my life because I trust in him?

Mr. King: Sure, Gordy. Remember then that God will use your life, because **God uses humble people to point to him*. Will you pray for that, Gordy?

Gordy: Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you that Mary was a humble person whose life was emptied of her "I wants" so she could be filled up with you. Thank you that Jesus came into the world and emptied himself out and went all the way to the cross to die for our sins. God, help us to empty ourselves out. Thank you that **you use humble people to point to you*. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Place this week's clue with the baby pacifier:

This lady emptied herself of all of her own “I wants” and was very humble. Therefore, God gave her special honor and she became a special mother. Who was she?

Directions for Folding the “Humble Box”

Step One: Put Creases in the Paper

- Place paper, print side up, on a flat surface to fold
- Fold “A” to “C,” then unfold.
- Fold “B” to “D.” then unfold.



Step Two: Join the lines

- With the print side up and #3 nearest to you, fold all dotted lines so they are touching each other in the center (folded on line to point #3).
- Press in the folds. The end product will look like a triangle with inverted portions on each side.



Step Three: Making a square

- With the triangle in front of you, take the right top layer corner flap and fold the tip to the peak of the triangle. Do the same with the left corner. Press in the folds.
- Turn the project over and do the same with the opposite side of the triangle.
- Finished product will be a square.

Step Four: Making the “Humble Box”

- With the square in front of you, turn it so it appears like a diamond and the edges in the middle of the square lay horizontal.
- Take the top corner of the top layer and fold down, pressing the fold lines, so that the tip touches the horizontal line. It will make a small triangle of the folded section.
- Fold the bottom tip to the horizontal line – pressing down the fold lines.
- Turn the paper over and repeat the process.



Step Five: Tuck in the flaps

- Pick up the folded paper and notice that there are four unfolded ends on one side. These need to get tucked into the most recent triangle folds. Tuck them as tightly as you can.

Step Six: Inflate

- Blow **firmly** into the opening you find in the side of the project. It will inflate.
- Crease corners to give it the look of a box. Look inside to see the cross.



OPTION: Paper Fold Cup

For those too young or those finding this difficult, the paper can be folded into a cup.

1. With print side to the inside, fold corner C to corner A and crease on the fold so you have a triangle shape.



2. Next, fold in point B to opposite side and crease.



3. Likewise, fold point D to opposite side and crease so you have a pentagon shape.



4. Fold back flaps A and C to the outside and crease



5. Open up the center to show the cross and now you have a cup!



“The Humble Box”

(cut along outside lines)

A

B

Write out your “Secret Service” ideas!

1

4

2

3

D

C