



Date: _____
Series: Teen Heroes of the Bible
Fall Year 2, Lesson 18

Mary—Truly Great is Truly Humble

Take Home Point: *God does great things through humble people. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Luke 1:26-56

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:6, "Be humbled by God's power so that when the right time comes he will honor you."

We will help kids know:

- Being humble means seeing how wonderful God is when depending upon him.
- True greatness comes from true humility.
- Being humble means being available for God's use. God does great things through humble people.




We will help kids feel:

- Significant in the gifts God has given them and how he might use them for his purposes.
- Awed by God's greatness and grace for them, giving them the reason for true humility.

We will help kids do:

- Make a humble award out of humble types of materials.
- Discuss what true greatness is in their eyes.
- Pray for openness to be used by God however he wants.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Students discuss what it means to do something great and whether or not they can foresee themselves in that position. They will use this discussion to begin a Humble Award craft project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six inch cardstock circles for each student (p. 13) • markers
Large Group 	4 8 9	Overview Video Clip: "Hail, Holy Queen!" Show this song from <i>Sister Act</i> where a humble and quiet nun is filled with the Lord's spirit to sing out about Mary, mother of Jesus. Audience Participation Drama Teen Idol: Mary... Truly Great is Truly Humble. Mary answers interview questions given to her by the show host about what makes her so special that God would choose her to be the mother of his Son Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • video clip - <i>Sister Act</i>, produced by Touchstone Home Entertainment, 1992, ISBN: 0-7888-2986-6 (www.amazon.com) • period appropriate headpiece or costume for the character of Mary • small note to Mary about answering "no" to all questions during interview (p. 14) • envelope labeled "The Secret to Greatness" (p. 15) • sealed inside the envelope are the printed words "Truly Great is Truly Humble"
Small Group Application 	4	Students finish the Humble Awards craft and review Mary's response as she was chosen by God to bear the Christ Child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plain, ordinary, recycled (clean) materials to decorate the pin—for example: pop can tabs, juice or milk lids, paper scraps, advertisements, etc. • large safety pins • glue • markers

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.

As kids gather: Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.

In today's Warm-Up and application, kids will make Humble Award pins. The pins should be creatively decorated with humble and, perhaps, castaway items. Though each award has a different look, each should have the message: "Truly Great is Truly Humble" in the center.

Kids will begin making the award pin in Warm-Up and will complete it during small group application time.

Supplies needed: six-inch circle for each kid, markers

Give kids a circle and ask them to write, "Truly Great" in the top third of the circle. Explain that they will add more words under this and at the bottom, so be sure to leave plenty of room. Say:

This morning we will discuss what it means to be truly great. It can be exciting to think of all the truly great things that we might do someday. God takes delight in giving us truly great things to do.

If you were the world's greatest at something, what would it be? While we discuss this, write the word "Is" in the center of the circle.

When you grow up, do you see yourself doing something truly great? What might that be? Discuss.

Today we will meet someone in the Bible who has been described as one of the greatest women who ever lived. Does anyone want to guess who that is? (Mary.)

We will also discover that what made her truly great is what made her truly humble. **God does great things through humble people.*

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.*

Video Clip: *Sister Act I: “Hail, Holy Queen!”—Show a section from the video Sister Act where a humble and quiet nun is filled with the Lord’s spirit to sing out about Mary, mother of Jesus.*

Audience Participation Drama: *Teen Idol: Mary—Truly Great is Truly Humble. Mary answers interview questions given to her by the show host about what makes her so special that God would choose her to be the mother of his Son Jesus.*

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 refer to Luke 1:26-55 in their Bibles.

How did Mary respond to the angel Gabriel when he entered her house and greeted her? *(Luke 1:29. She was startled and tried to figure out what the greeting meant.)*

What did Gabriel say when he greeted her? *(Luke 1:28, 30. “You are favored by the Lord! The Lord is with you...You have found favor with God.”)*

How did Gabriel explain that she would have a baby without a human father? *(Luke 1:35. He said that the Holy Spirit would come to her and the power of the Most High would overshadow her.)*

What proof did the angel give Mary that nothing is impossible for God? *(Luke 1:36. He told her that her relative Elizabeth would also have a baby even though she was past the age of having babies.)*

How did Mary respond? *(Luke 1:38. She said that she was the Lord’s servant and accepted everything that would happen to her.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Was there any reason given why Mary had found favor with the Lord or why he chose her to be Jesus' mother? (No.) Why do you think she was chosen for the important role? (We don't know for sure, but God knew her heart. Her later response in verse 38 shows that she had a humble attitude and trusted in the Lord. Also, Luke 1:46-55 shows how she had faith in the Lord and rejoiced that God displayed his mighty power in her life.)

Do you think Mary was more surprised that she would have a baby without a human father, experiencing a miracle, or that God chose her to bear his Son?

Do you think Mary understood how she would be treated as an unmarried pregnant girl? Why do you think she praised the Lord so greatly?

Going Deeper: If time is available you may want to discuss further.

Why do you think Mary hurried to the city where Elizabeth lived? (Luke 1:39-40. She may have wanted to be sure that what the angel said was true. She may have been so excited for Elizabeth.)

How did Elizabeth know that Mary would be the mother of the Lord? (Luke 1:41. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.)

What did Elizabeth say to Mary to encourage her? (Luke 1:42, 45. She proclaimed loudly, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child that you will have... You are blessed for believing that the Lord would keep his promise to you.")

Do you think this was confirmation of what the angel told Mary? How then did Mary respond? (Luke 1:46-55. She sang praises to the Lord!)

Why do you think Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three more months before she went back home? (Luke 1:36. Elizabeth was six months pregnant when Mary came to visit. Mary may have stayed to help Elizabeth or to see the baby or to help in the delivery. Elizabeth may have prepared Mary for her own pregnancy and childbirth.)

When do you think Mary was honored the most: when God chose her to be Jesus' mother, when Jesus was born, or when Jesus died and rose again? Why?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: plain, ordinary, recycled (clean) materials to decorate the pin. For example: pop can tabs, juice or milk lids, paper scraps, advertisements, etc., large safety pins, glue, and markers

To finish making the Humble Award pin, have kids write, "Truly Humble" on the bottom third of the circle used in the Warm-Up activity. Stick the large safety pin to the circle so it opens at the back. (You may want to tape it to the circle with masking tape.) Decorate the award to look like a medal, crown or sash with the junk materials provided.

We are going to use humble, ordinary materials to decorate these Humble Award pins as a reminder that God can take ordinary people like us and like Mary, and do extraordinary things.



Discuss the following questions while kids finish their pins.

What can we learn from Mary's response to God's purposes for her even though she would be ridiculed? *(She loved and trusted the Lord so much that she would accept being humiliated for God and his purposes for her.)*

What does it mean to be a humble servant? *(Being open and receptive to God's will in our lives even if it costs us.)*

Can you think of anyone you know whom you would call a humble servant of the Lord? Discuss.

Can you think of any examples of times when you displayed the act of a humble servant? Discuss.

Describe what it looks like to others when you are God's humble servant. Discuss.

Mary never said, "Look at me, I am so great because I am Jesus' mother. On the contrary, she said, "My spirit finds its joy in God, my Savior, because he has looked favorably on me, his humble servant. From now on, all people will call me blessed because the Almighty has done great things to me."

She never claimed to be great or to have done anything to brag about; instead she said that God did the great thing to her.

1 Peter 5:6 says, “*Be humbled by God’s power so that when the right time comes he will honor you.*” Notice that this verse says God will honor you at the right time. You never have to lift yourself up.

We can learn from this verse and the example of Mary that **God does great things through humble people.*

Pin the Humble Award on the students before they leave.

Ask kids:

Do you think you can be humble and accept what God has for you, and trust that he will honor you at the time he chooses? Let’s pray for that.

Closing Prayer:

Pray that students would be able to accept whatever God has in store for them. This is being humble to God’s ways. Pray for servant attitudes that are not proud or boastful, but seek to do God’s will. Thank God for blessing and honoring us in his time.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Teen Idol: Mary... Truly Great is Truly Humble Audience Participation Drama

Props and Supplies:

- Sister Act video cued up to the song: "Hail, Holy Queen!"
- period piece headdress or full costume for Mary
- note for Mary that says, "I will touch you on the shoulder or arm to signal when you should answer the interview questions. Please answer 'no' to all of the questions"
- business sized envelope labeled with large letters "The Secret to Greatness"
- sealed inside the envelope is the secret that reads "Truly Great is Truly Humble"

Host Introduction – Raz Mattaz:

Welcome, ladies and gentlemen! I am your host, Raz. That's Raz Mattaz. Today, one of the contestants trying out to be our teen idol is from the Bible. This person is more than a teen idol. Apart from Jesus himself, this person is actually the greatest teenager who ever lived! This person is a teen girl who has been sung about throughout the centuries. As a matter of fact, let's take a look at this video clip of a song about her.

Video Clip: "Hail, Holy Queen"

Please show the video clip from the film, *Sister Act*. The clip begins at 53:50 when the priest says, "Welcome this Sunday morning, oh ye few but faithful." End it after the song and congregation applause at 57:50. Total clip length is four minutes.

Ask for a female volunteer from the audience and transition with energy:

Meet our contestant for today. Let's give a warm welcome to Mary, the Mother of Jesus!

Encourage applause.

Dress the volunteer with period appropriate headpiece or full costume. Then pass her a note that reads, "I will touch you on the shoulder or arm to signal when you should answer the interview questions. Please answer 'no' to all of the questions." Also, give her the envelope labeled "The Secret to Greatness" to hold until told to open it and read.

Host Raz Mattaz holds the Bible and begins the interview process.

Interview:

Welcome to our show, Mary, and good luck to you as you try out to be our next teen idol! Now, it says here in the Bible in Luke 1:26 that God sent the angel Gabriel to visit you in your hometown of Nazareth. You were engaged to a guy named Joseph and you were a virgin, which means you never had relations with a man.

Question 1:

Now, I imagine that when you first saw the angel and heard him talk, you must have felt pretty excited. Is that true? *(Mary answers: No.)*

Oh, look. I guess I see here in the Bible that you were really afraid when he first appeared. It says here that the angel said,

“Don’t be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.”

Now I imagine that God found favor with you because you were such an extraordinary person.

Question 2:

I take it that you probably made the best grades in school? *(No.)*

Question 3:

You were the best looking? *(No.)*

Start to show some frustration with her continued no’s.

Question 4:

Then you had to have been the most popular girl? *(No.)*

Well, now, wait a minute. If you answered “no” to all these questions, then why did God choose you? The Bible says the angel told you that you had found favor with God. Do we have any clues here from the Bible why you were chosen?

Quickly flip through some pages of your Bible.

Well, the Bible does say that you would become pregnant and give birth to a son and his name would be Jesus and he would be called

the Son of the Most High God. Additionally, he would be a king like his ancestor, David, and his kingdom will never end.

Question 5:

Wow! I bet when you heard all of this, you had to be really excited! Is that right? (No.)

Well, here in Luke 1:34, it says that you were confused and asked the angel, “How can this be? I’ve never had sexual intercourse.” None of this made sense to you.

Question 6:

You came to understand how all of this would work. Is that right? (No.)

Oh, I see. Here it is in the Bible. The angel explained it to you and said that the Holy Spirit would come to you and your baby would be the Son of God himself.

Question 7:

To this idea you must have said to yourself, “My goodness, that just sounds too weird for me. I don’t want anything to do with that!” Is this what you said? (No.)

No? Oh, here it is. You said, “I will serve you, Lord, let everything you said, happen to me.” In other words, you told God you would do whatever he asked of you. Hum, that’s wonderful.

So, let me get this right. You were chosen from all the girls who had ever lived. But what is it that made you so special?

Question 8:

Were you holy and born without sin? Are you a perfect person? (No.)

Demonstrate confusion.

Question 9:

Were you the most famous girl before that happened? (No.)

I see here, as the passage from Luke 1 continues, when you met your cousin Elizabeth, she said that you would be the most blessed of all women because of the child that you carried. So, what is it that makes you so great? What is it that you have there in you hand?

Teaching:

Mary shows the audience her envelope labeled “The Secret to Greatness” which contains the host’s answer. She opens the envelope and reads the following:

The secret to greatness is that God does **great things through humble people.*

Host Raz Mattaz offers her the chance to read Luke 1:46-55, Mary praising God. Mary or any other adult female may read this section of the Bible or you may invite a guest to come in and sing these verses where Mary magnifies the Lord. This is called the Magnificat.

In Luke 1:46-55...

Mary said,

***“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.***

***“From now on, all people will call me blessed
because the Almighty has done great things to me.
His name is holy.
For those who fear him,
his mercy lasts throughout every generation.***

***“He displayed his mighty power.
He scattered those who think too highly of themselves.
He pulled strong rulers from their thrones.
He honored humble people.
He fed hungry people with good food.
He sent rich people away with nothing.***

***He remembered to help his servant Israel forever.
This is the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his descendants.”***

Host Conclusion:

Addressing Mary:

So, there is not a lot in the Bible about what you did, was there. That means it really is all about God, right?

To the audience:

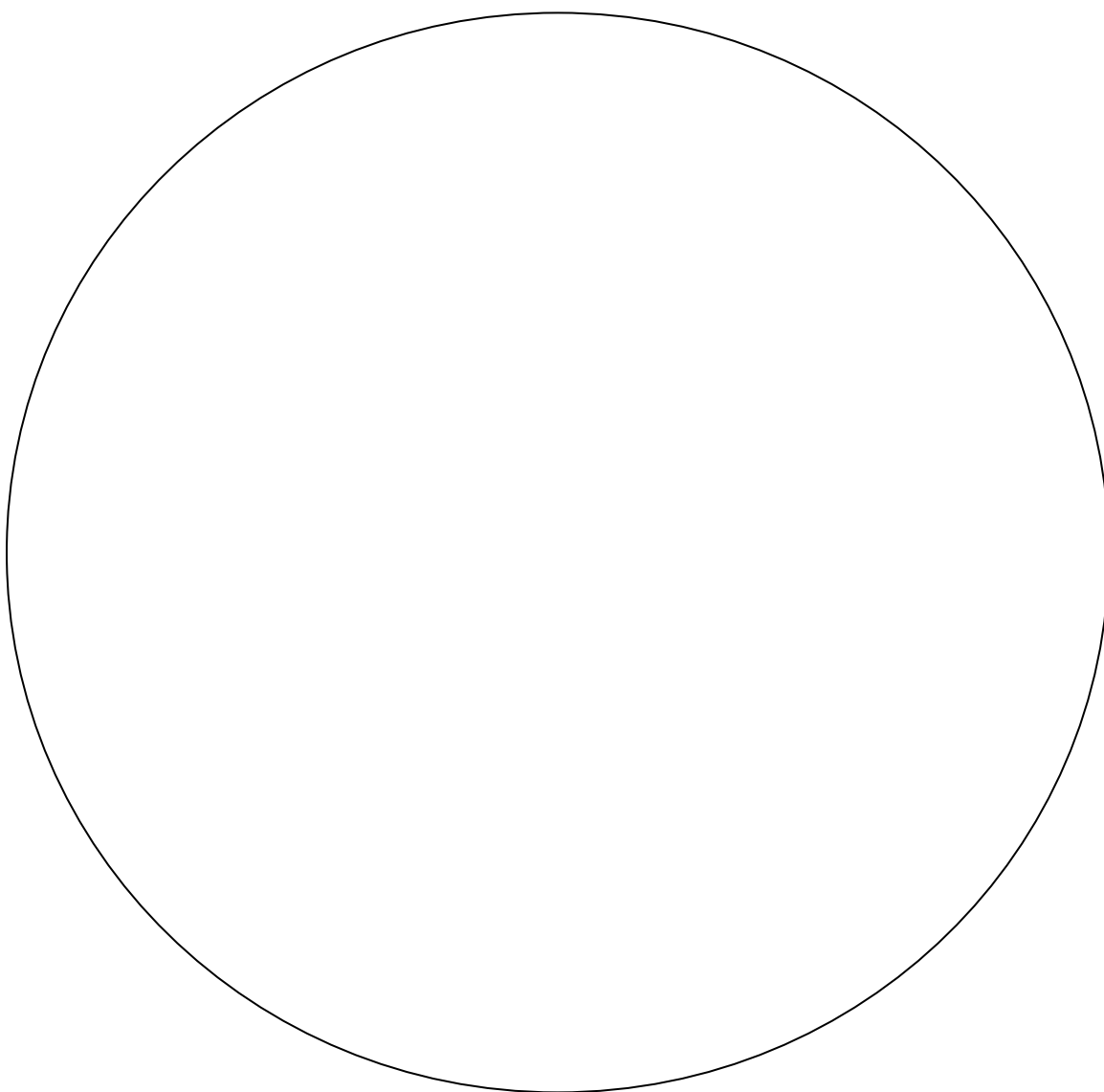
Well, ladies and gentlemen, I believe we have our Teen Idol winner here! Mary, congratulations to you today and for all of eternity! Your greatness because of your humility is inspiring and reminds me of a verse we should all remember from 1 Peter 5:6,

“Be humbled by God’s power so that when the right time comes he will honor you.”

Prayer:

Dear God, we praise you for your greatness and ability to do great things through humble people. Help us to be your humble servants. Have mercy on us and forgive us when we fall short. May Mary’s example of finding joy in you, our Savior, be with us always. In your name we pray, Amen.

Appendix A – Cut out 6" circle.



NOTE FOR MARY

I will touch you on the shoulder or arm to signal when you should answer the interview questions.

Please answer 'no' to all of the questions.

Place this label strip on the outside of the envelope:

The Secret to Greatness

Place this label strip on a card or paper and place in the envelope:

The secret to greatness is that **God does great things through humble people.*

Put the card or paper in the envelope and seal it.