



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Jesus, Our Savior, Came to Earth  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 29

# Mary Visits Elizabeth

**Bible Event:** Luke 1:39-56

**Take Home Point:** \*JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – *Jump for joy.*

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

**Jesus Link:** God chose Mary, an imperfect human like us, to have his perfect Son, Jesus.

**What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:**

- Children will learn that God gave Jesus as a gift to the world. Christmas is a celebration of Jesus being born. Before Jesus was born, his mother, Mary, had great joy when she looked forward to the birth of Jesus. She knew Jesus would be the Savior of the world. When Mary visited her relative Elizabeth, the inside of Elizabeth jumped for joy. Kids today can do the same. **\*JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – *Jump for joy.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs, their offerings, and their actions of love in their worship experience.



## Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

### Video Suggestions:

- *The Beginner's Bible: The Story of the Nativity*, Sony Music Entertainment. 1995
- *Veggie Tales: The Toy that Saved Christmas*, Big Idea Productions. 1996
- *Bed Bug Bible Gang: A Christmas Story*, Morning Light Media. 1999

**Activity Suggestion:** Table games that have jumping involved—such as “Jumping Frogs” as used in today's Kingdom Quest.



## Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

### Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

### Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

*The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's Word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.*

The items in the traveler's backpack are a small wrapped present and a stethoscope. (If a stethoscope cannot be found, use a paper towel tube or funnel that could also illustrate listening to hear a baby inside a mother's tummy.)

### A Baby that Jumped for Joy

**Traveler:** Hi, boys and girls. Have you ever jumped for joy? Have you ever jumped because you were just happy? Sometimes I like to do that. Why don't you do that with me now. Jump with the children. **Fantastic!**

**Now everyone sit down and listen to this most strange event about a baby that jumped for joy. Let me check my backpack, for in it I have some of the treasures I have found in my many travels.**

**Here is God's word. It tells us the truth about how he loves us and has sent us his Son Jesus as our Savior. Let me read it to you now.**

**Remove the wrapped present as he reads the Bible. God said he would send a wonderful gift into the world. It wouldn't be a gift wrapped in a package like this. It would be a gift that would be a person. This person's name is Jesus. It says that if anyone would believe in Jesus, Jesus would be his Savior and take away all of this sin. Then that person could be a friend with God forever. It was a wonderful gift!**

**Jesus had to be born into the world. God chose a special woman named Mary to be Jesus' mother. Jesus was growing inside Mary's tummy, just like any baby would grow inside of her mother's tummy.**

**Mary was so excited that she was to be the mother of Jesus. She went to tell her relative, Elizabeth. Elizabeth also had a baby growing inside her tummy.**

**When babies are inside their mothers' tummies, they cannot see and they cannot hear the words we say. If you put one of these (remove stethoscope), on a mommy's tummy when the baby is growing inside, sometimes you can hear him inside. Sometimes you can even feel the baby move inside his mommy's tummy.**

**This is what happened. Mary with Jesus inside her tummy came to visit her relative Elizabeth. As soon as Mary saw Elizabeth, God caused Elizabeth to know that Mary was going to be the mother of the Savior. Just then, the baby inside her tummy jumped for joy. It was like God was telling the baby as well: *\*JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – Jump for joy.***

**Pick up gift. I know many of us can be excited about Christmas coming when we think about presents. But let's remember that the best present of all is God giving us Jesus. Christmas is Jesus' birthday. When we think of that, we can be happy. We can even jump for joy. Remember: *\*JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – Jump for joy.***

**Let's pray.** Children repeat each phrase.

**Dear God,** (repeat)

**Thank you for being here.** (repeat)

**Thank you for sending Jesus.** (repeat)

**He is our friend.** (repeat)

**Help us give him our best.** (repeat)

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!** (repeat)

**Amen.** (repeat)



## Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

*During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.*

**Snack Zone:** Eat Rice Krispie treats. Before giving the children their treats, place several spoonfuls of Rice Krispies on a piece of paper. Rub a balloon across one's hair to charge it and then move it across the Rice Krispies. Watch them jump for joy!

**Video Zone:** *Veggie Tales: The Toy that Saved Christmas*

**Puppet Zone:** Have puppets tell each other things that make them happy. They can even demonstrate doing those described activities. Finally, let the puppets tell about God sending his Savior. The puppets can demonstrate jumping for joy in response.

**Craft Zone:** Use the attached paper doll cutout. Let the children color it and write their name on it. Cut rubber bands so they are one long string. Staple or glue them to the top of the paper doll, which then becomes a "Jump for Joy" paper doll.

**Play Zone:** Play a version of "Leap Frog." Let the children crouch down like a frog behind a masking tape line. See how far they can leap forward. Mark the different spots so the children can see how far they jumped. Some older children might be able to play the traditional game of "Leap Frog," in which a child crouches in a ball and others jump over him.

*Option 1:* Have each child take off a shoe and leave it loose on his foot. Let the children see how far they can kick their shoes forward.

*Option 2:* Use a parachute or sheet with children gathered around holding it tightly. Put balls in the center and let children bounce the parachute. The jumping balls remind us of the joy we have since Jesus is our Savior.

**Quiet Reading Zone:** Christmas books

**Music Zone:** Practice the music the children will sing for their Christmas program.

**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.



## Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

***Purpose:** As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.*

### Worship Songs:

*Choose one or two songs and list them here.*

### Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

***Purpose:** The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.*

The presenter calls for Bubba to come out, but he is reluctant and doesn't come out. Finally, the presenter peers over the puppet stage to see where Bubba is. Bubba appears.

The presenter asks Bubba why he didn't come out right away. Bubba explains that sometimes it is hard for him to go to church because he has to sit still for so long. The presenter says that in some church services that is very important because that's the best way to listen and learn.

Bubba says that is too hard for him to do. He wishes he could have fun in church. The presenter asks the boys and girls if it's okay to have fun in church. Sure! Bubba seems surprised.

The presenter explains that here in Kids Church we can have fun and learn about Jesus. In fact, we learned today that when you know that God gave Jesus as Savior of the world, it makes you want to jump for joy. Bubba is in disbelief.

The story is retold by the presenter who asks the kids help explain it to Bubba. The event concludes with the entire group saying the take home point, **\*JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – Jump for joy**, while jumping up and down.

### Prayer Time:

***Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.*

## "Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

## Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,  
pour his love upon you.

*(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)*

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,  
walk right there beside you.

*(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)*

And may God's Holy Spirit,  
the one who lives inside you,

*(Cross hands over your heart.)*

keep you strong,  
comfort, lead and guide you!

*(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song and list it here.*



## Closing Zones:

**Purpose:** Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.



# Supplies:

- videos: *Story of the Nativity* (order from: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/6304132603/002-4057945-1179217?v=glance> or from: [http://www.visionvideo.com/111-1111111-1111111\\_777.vhtml](http://www.visionvideo.com/111-1111111-1111111_777.vhtml)) OR *Toy that Saved Christmas, A Christmas Story*—order from: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/B000055WAK/002-4057945-1179217?v=glance> or from: <http://store.yahoo.net/yhst-54787164184156/toythsach.html>
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- Traveler's backpack and costume
- small wrapped present
- stethoscope or paper towel tube or funnel

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack:*

- Rice Krispie treats
- Rice Krispies
- balloon

### *Craft:*

- attached paper doll cutout
- rubber band
- crayons
- glue, staples

### *Play:*

- masking tape
- options: parachute and balls

### *Video:*

- *The Toy that Saved Christmas*

### *Quiet Reading:*

- Christmas books

### *Music:*

- program music

### *Puppet:*

- various puppets

## *Closing Worship:*

- Bubba, the puppet

## *Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

