



Date: _____
Series: God Gives the Best Gifts
Winter Year 2, Lesson 30

An Angel Appears to Mary and Joseph

Bible Event: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:20-21

Take Home Point: *GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS – *Jesus is coming soon!*

*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: Jesus' gift lasts forever. There is no better gift than the Savior.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that our God is a giving God. He gives us gifts and talents and blessings every day. The season of Christmas, however, is about the best gift God has ever given us – his son Jesus. He sent Jesus to be our savior and friend. Every year at this time, we get to remember what it was like when Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph. Kids will take home the point: **GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS – *Jesus is coming soon!***
- 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 of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.

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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 Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



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: Video

Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to its precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or imager. Dim the lights before starting the video. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting children to see what happens by watching the video. You could also introduce the video by inviting children to keep an eye out for special actions or words they will see during it.

Begin each week of the Advent series with the lighting of the appropriate candle of the Advent wreath.

Introduce the video by explaining that we are getting close to Christmas time. We are going to be talking about true Bible events leading up to the birth of baby Jesus! Today's event is about a couple named Mary and Joseph. They were a young couple who were going to get married. One day, an angel came to Mary and told her she was going to have a baby boy. The angel also appeared to Joseph. This baby boy was going to be named Jesus! He was God's very own Son, born here on earth for you and me! It was going to be a very special time. Let's watch and see what happens.

Show *The King is Born: The Animated Stories of the New Testament*; Animated Stories Inc., 1987 from 7 minutes 50 seconds to 10 minutes 30 seconds. Order from www.nestfamily.com.

Recap the video by asking the children several simple fill-in-the-blank questions including:

1. Mary was going to marry a man named... (*Joseph*).
2. One day an ... (*angel*) appeared to Mary.
3. He told her that she was going to have a ... (*son, baby boy*).
4. Joseph was also visited by an ... (*angel*).
5. The angel told them that the baby should be named ... (*Jesus*).
6. Even though the baby would be raised by Mary and Joseph here on earth, he was really... (*God's*) own Son.

Since the video does not show the angel appearing to Joseph, it may help to conclude by reading the actual Bible account of all of these events.

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.



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: Assorted Christmas cookies and snack cakes of your choosing.

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Use a trail mix of raisins and other dried fruits. Talk of all the different snacks in one and then have the children talk of how they might have felt if an angel had visited them.

Drama Zone: Provide dress-up clothes for the children to reenact the scene including robes, headpieces and an angel costume.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to list as many things as they can that they have to wait for. For example: Christmas, birthday, Grandma's visit, Jesus.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Angel appearing to Mary and Joseph from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #96 "An Angel Visits Mary" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone:

"Christmas Gift and Invitation" Craft

To make:

1. Lay the cardboard tube at one end of the wrapping paper, so that the wrapping paper extends a several inches beyond each end of the tube.
2. Tape the paper to the tube.
3. Roll the paper around the tube and tape again.
4. Twist one end of the paper closed.
5. Twist a chenille wire around the twisted end of the paper to secure it closed.
6. Optional: As time allows, color the invitation.
7. Roll the invitation into a tube and put it in the cardboard tube.
8. Add two candies to the tube. The children may eat the other candies or take them home.
9. Twist the other end of the paper closed.
10. Twist the second chenille wire around this end of the tube to secure it closed.
11. Affix a label to the craft that says, "Jesus is coming soon!"
12. Give it to a friend to invite him or her to a Christmas event at your church.

Play Zone: Play a telephone relay game. Divide kids into teams of four. Mark masking tape lines on the floor twenty feet apart (or whatever your space allows) and have two team members across from each other on each line. Give the first 'message' to the first team member of each team. That child runs to the next team member opposite them and relays the message. That team member, in turn, runs back across to give the message to the next team member, etc. until all members have received the message. At the end of that round, check to see if team members relayed the message accurately. Go again with a new 'message.' Suggested messages: 1.) An angel came to Mary. 2.) An angel came to Joseph. 3.) GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS. 4.) *Jesus is coming soon!*

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Mary and Joseph. Also include "Santa's Favorite Story" and other seasonal books.

Music Zone: Your choice.

Coloring Zone: "An angel appears to Mary" coloring page



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.

Judy comes out with a Christmas list for Santa in her hand. She has been wanting and wanting to go see Santa. Now her mom PROMISED that she would get to go and Judy knows that a promise means that it will really happen! She's very excited.

The presenter is happy for her. He knows that seeing Santa is exciting and a fun part of Christmas. But he knows about a promise that is much bigger and better than going to see Santa or even getting presents. It is God's promise to us that Jesus is coming! God promised that he would send his very own son for us and he did it! That is exactly what today's Bible event is about. Have the kids help explain to Judy how God sent an angel to Mary as a promise that she would have a son, Jesus!

Just like God made this big promise to Mary and Joseph, God also promises us that Jesus is our friend and Savior. That means that Jesus can forgive our sins, so that we can be friends with God forever. God always keeps his promises. Remember: ***GOD GIVES THE BEST GIFTS – Jesus is coming soon!**

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 a 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:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons
- *Veggie Tales: The Toy that Saved Christmas*, Big Idea Productions, 1996—order from www.amazon.com or www.bigidea.com

Opening Worship:

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box—the treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event
- video: *The King is Born: Animated Stories from the New Testament*; Animated Stories Inc., 1987—order from http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=KBD

Action Zones:

Snack:

- assorted Christmas cookies or snack cakes
- *Healthy Snack Option:* mixture of dried fruit

Drama:

- angel costume
- robes
- head pieces

Craft:

- short cardboard rolls
- wrapping paper
- tape
- chenille wire
- invitation
- candies

Play:

- masking tape

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books including seasonal books
- “*Santa’s Favorite Story*”—order from <http://aol.alibris.com/books/isbn/0887081533/Santa's%20Favorite%20Story>

Music:

- your choice

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story (For example, use Lesson #96 “An Angel Visits Mary” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt.*)

Coloring page:

- “Angel Appears to Mary”

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books



An Invitation for You

What: _____

When: _____

Where: _____

Time: _____



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What: _____

When: _____

Where: _____

Time: _____