



Date: _____
Series: Jesus, Our Savior, Came to Earth
Winter Year 1, Lesson 28

The Angel Gabriel Appears to Mary

Bible Event: Luke 1:26-38

Take Home Point: *JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – *Jesus' birthday is coming!*

*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 came to earth to save us from our sins.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children this age are already becoming excited about Christmas. In this worship experience, they are learning that Christmas is Jesus' birthday. When we wait for Christmas, we are waiting to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Children will learn that Mary was told by the angel Gabriel that she would have a son. He would be God's Son and save us from our sin. Kids will take home the point: ***JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – *Jesus' birthday is coming!***
- 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 Suggestion:

- *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: 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: Mystery Box

The Mystery Box contains objects will help the presenter tell the Bible event in creative fashion. They can be lifted out and shown as the story is told. Another option is to have a hole cut in the top of the box so that a child could put a hand in and guess what the object is before it is shown.

Begin by removing the Bible from the Mystery Box and explain that it is God's word telling us of the wonderful deeds God has done.

Let's see what we have in our Mystery Box. Here's the Bible. It will tell us of the wonderful things God has done for us.

Open Bible. Today's Bible event is how Mary finds out that Jesus' birthday is coming. Let's find out all about it.

Remove the wrapped present. This is a present. Have you ever received presents on your birthday? Presents are a wonderful way to say, "You are special."

Do any of you get presents on Christmas? You do? Whose birthday is on Christmas? Right, it's Jesus' birthday. We celebrate Jesus' birthday on Christmas. *JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – *Jesus' birthday is coming!* Let's read about it in the Bible.

There once was a young lady named Mary. Mary loved God and wanted always to do what pleased him. One day in her house, she was surprised by the strangest of visitors. It scared her very much. Do you know whom it was suddenly standing there before her? Maybe this will help you guess. Remove the white robe.

A man who looked he came from heaven—an angel! His name was Gabriel. He spoke to Mary and said, “You are very special. The Lord is with you and he will do something very wonderful for you.”

Mary was surprised and almost afraid. Why would an angel be visiting her? She didn't understand what he was telling her.

The angel said, “Don't be afraid, Mary. God thinks you are very special. You will have a... (remove baby doll and let the kids guess what the angel said) ...baby, and you to give him the name Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of God. He will be the Savior for all the world. He will save people from their sin.”

Mary was still confused. She said, “I don't understand how this can happen.”

The angel said, “Don't worry, Mary. God is with you. With him, anything is possible. *JESUS IS THE SAVIOR – *Jesus' birthday is coming!*”

Mary answered, “I am the Lord's servant; let everything you've said happen to me.” Then the angel Gabriel left her.

Can you remember what happened? What is the lady's name that was to have a baby? (*Mary.*) What was the angel's name that came to tell her? (*Gabriel.*)

How did Mary feel when she first heard the news? Was she surprised or was she sad? (*She was surprised.*)

Pick up the wrapped present. Christmas is Jesus' birthday. That's why we give gifts to each other. At Christmas, we remember that God's greatest gift to us is Baby Jesus. Jesus is alive and right here with us, even if we can't see him now. But we can trust him and follow him as our Savior.

When Mary knew she would have a baby, she was to give him a special name. What was the name she was to give him? (*Jesus.*)

Right. That's because Jesus means "Savior" and he would save us from our sin by giving his life for us.

Remember our special words today: *JESUS IS THE SAVIOR – *Jesus' birthday is coming!*

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: Make an angel snack. Use an angel cookie cutter to cut out pieces of bread and spread with butter and cinnamon/sugar mix or the topping of your choice.

Option: Use the craft sticks to spread frosting on vanilla wafers and graham crackers. Then turn the graham cracker so that one corner is pointing towards the child and one corner is pointing away from the child. Place the vanilla wafer on the corner pointing away from the child. The wafer is the angel's head. The other two corners of the wafer are the angel's wings. Use the raisins for eyes and the cinnamon candies to make a mouth.

Drama Zone: Clothing for Mary and the angel, Gabriel allowing younger children can reenact what they have just seen and heard.

Messy Zone: Toilet paper rolls cut in half. Angel invitation (flat piece). The children will decorate the angel with glitter glue, glitter markers, crayons, garland, and sequins. After the angel is decorated, glue it onto the toilet paper roll. Follow with decorating the toilet paper roll.

Coloring Zone: "The Angel Gabriel Appears to Mary" coloring page.

Play Zone: Use puzzles and talk about how Mary was puzzled when she first heard the news that she would be the mother of Jesus.

Quiet Reading Zone: *The Easy Reading Bible* and other storybooks. Make it interesting by having the children guess the missing word.

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

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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 wearing a birthday hat and talks about her birthday that is coming soon. She can't wait!

The presenter asks Judy why she is wearing a birthday hat. Judy says it is because she wants to get ready for her birthday party. Birthday parties help everyone realize how special the person whose having the birthday is. It's also a reason for people to bring you presents.

The presenter asks Judy if she knows whose birthday it is on Christmas. She can ask the kids to help her say the answer: "It's Jesus' birthday."

Then the presenter asks, "**Why is Jesus so special?**" Judy doesn't know. The presenter reviews the Bible event today, with the kids helping answer the question.

The angel Gabriel told Mary she would have a baby. His name was to be Jesus. He would be known as God's Son. What was Jesus going to be?

See if the kids can help with the answer, Savior. Give them a hint.

He would save the people from their sins. He is called a Savior. Jesus did that when he died on the cross for our sin and rose again. He did that many years after he was born. On Christmas, we remember that Jesus was born and God sent him as a gift to the world.

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:

Welcome Zone:

- video: *Beginners Bible: The 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
- option: *Veggie Tales, The Toy that Saved Christmas*—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> or the *Bed Bug Bible Gang: A Christmas Show*—order from: http://www.visionvideo.com/371-6783973-1375989_816.vhtml or from: <http://www.christianmultimedia.org.au/search.php?itemCode=100001321>
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- mystery Box
- Bible
- white robe
- baby doll
- wrapped present

Action Zones:

Snack:

- angel cookie cutter
- bread.
- butter and cinnamon/sugar
- option:
 - half a graham cracker per child
 - one vanilla wafer per child
 - white frosting
 - two raisins per child
 - three or four cinnamon candies per child

Play:

- puzzles

Quiet Reading:

- *The Easy Reading Bible* and other storybooks.

Music:

- music for program

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet
- birthday hat

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

angels
announce



you're
invited!

What: _____
Where: _____
When: _____

cut ✂