

LESSON 3

MARY

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the Promised King

SCRIPTURE: [Luke 1](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY: God's people have waited for the promised King. At long last, an angel tells a young woman named Mary that she will be mother to the coming King Jesus.

Free Play

Declaration

Worship

Snack

Prayer and Blessing

God's Big Story

Activity: Jump for Joy and Jesus

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

I've always been a slow reader. During my first year of seminary, I was behind in the reading for one of my theology classes, so I blocked out time to catch up. I expected a long day of slogging through dense paragraphs, and my expectations were met. But God brought something unexpected too. Somehow, those dense paragraphs gave me fresh eyes for the truth about who Jesus is. I ended up kneeling on the floor in teary-eyed wonder, praising Jesus the King.

Read [Luke 1:26–38](#). It doesn't have to come through a theology textbook. It might come through a song, a poem, or a service project. It might come through a familiar passage of Scripture or one you've never read before. Or it might come as you're preparing to teach kids about God's big story. Every time we revisit the Christmas story, there's an opportunity to hear and read anew. Who is Jesus? According to the angel Gabriel, Jesus is the promised King, the one whose kingdom will never end. Do you believe that?

It's so easy to miss out on the truth, to go through the motions, to hear without hearing or see without seeing. This week don't miss out on the story. Jesus really is King, and His kingdom really is coming. Christmas changes everything!

—**Michael Rade**

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Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS****WHO?**

Mary was a young woman from the town of Nazareth who gave birth to Jesus. She was a virgin engaged to be married to Joseph, a descendant of David. It is possible Mary was also descended from David.

WHAT?

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her she would become pregnant with a baby and to name Him Jesus. Jesus would be called the Son of God and become a king like David, ruling over God's people forever in a kingdom without end.

WHERE?

The angel appeared to Mary in the town of Nazareth in the region of Galilee, which was north of Judea. Nazareth is just over 15 miles west of the Sea of Galilee. Mary traveled south to visit her relative Elizabeth in the hill country of Judea.

WHEN?

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary when her relative Elizabeth was six months pregnant. When the angel foretold the birth of John, King Herod's reign was nearing its end. King Herod ruled over Judea until 4 BC.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God promised that a descendant of David would rule forever, and Daniel had a vision of one like a son of man ruling a kingdom without end ([Daniel 7:13–14](#)). These expectations are fulfilled in Jesus, born the rightful King over all creation.

Free Play

As kids arrive...

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church. Help kids find a toy or activity to enjoy as they get comfortable in class.

SUPPLIES: backpack

During free play, set out the bag and the items to be packed. Invite the kids to pack the bag with you. **Let's pretend we're going on a trip! Can you help pack the bag? Where do you want to go on your pretend trip?** Allow the kids to respond. **In God's big story today we're going to read about how someone named Mary got some amazing news and then went on a trip.** Ask the kids to name the items as they place them in the bag. Unpack the bag when finished and let more kids take a turn. **We'll learn how God sent the promised King, Jesus.**

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS IS THE PROMISED KING.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS IS—*Point up.*

THE PROMISED—*Bring hands together like a book.*

KING—*Bring hands together in a circle on top of your head, like a crown.*

Clean Up

At the end of free play...

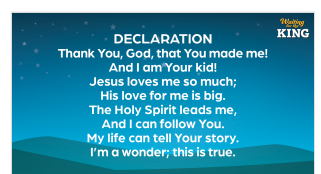
Play the Clean Up video and encourage kids to help put away toys to prepare for worship, snack, and story time.

After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots to say the declaration.

Declaring God's Wonder

Hello friends! It's so good to be here with all of you at church today. Stand up and repeat after me!

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.



Thank You, God, that You made me! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").

Worship

SUPPLIES: Worship music videos

Today in God's big story we'll learn that God always keeps His promises. The biggest and best promise God made was to send Jesus to be King.

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

Snack

SUPPLIES: small paper cups, cheerios, pitcher of water

Gather kids around snack table and serve cheerios and water. After praying together, begin Bible story while kids are busy eating.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

God, we have so much to celebrate today. Thank You for keeping Your promises and thank You that Jesus is our King. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May Jesus be your King forever. May you know His love and peace. May you trust that God always keeps His promises

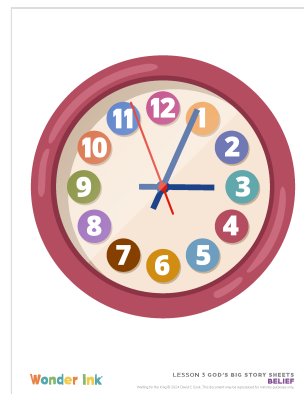
God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, [God's Big Story Sheets](#)

God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Mary. Encourage the kids to say, "Mary." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Mary!**

For a long time, God's people waited for a king who would be in charge forever. God promised to send this king to save His people, so the people waited. And waited. And waited. It was a long time to wait. Hold up #1 sheet: **Clock. Can you say, "We're waiting"?** Lead kids in repeating the words.

But even while they waited God was always preparing the way for Jesus. One day an angel came to visit a girl named Mary. Hold up #2 sheet: Mary. Can you say, “Hi, Mary!”? Lead kids in repeating the words. The angel told Mary not to be afraid because God was going to do something amazing. The angel said Mary was going to have a baby named Jesus, and He was the King everyone was waiting for. Hold up #3 sheet: Baby. Now you say, “The King is coming!” Lead kids in repeating the words.



Then Mary traveled to share the good news with her cousin Elizabeth, and she sang a song to thank God. Hold up #4 sheet: Music Notes. Now you say, “Thank you, God!” Lead kids in repeating the words. Try using a singsong voice to highlight that Mary sang. Mary praised God for keeping His promises. After all, God had just kept the biggest promise of all. The King was coming! Jesus is the promised King!

Activity: Jump for Joy and Jesus

After the angel greeted Mary with the good news, Mary went to see her cousin Elizabeth. When Mary arrived, Elizabeth’s baby jumped for joy. Probably because the promised King was visiting! Let’s play a game where we show joy because Jesus is the promised King.

Have the kids sit down. Explain that the kids should show joy when they hear: Jesus or joy. They should not jump up if they hear another “J” word, such as: juice, jungle, Jack, jellybean, joke, etc. They can clap, jump, or cheer (by saying, “Yay!”).