

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.

MEMORY VERSE: A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace. —[from Isaiah 9:6](#)

CURIOSITY

Interactive hands-on activities to help kids begin thinking about the wonder of God.

- Free Play
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Prayer of Invitation
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Memory Verse: [From Isaiah 9:6](#)

FAITH

An intentional interactive discussion that helps kids discover the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own.

- Circle Time: Discussion
- Prayer and Blessing

CLOSING

An interactive activity to reinforce the lesson and keep kids engaged during pick up.

- Option 1: Jump for Joy
- Option 2: Greeting Relay

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**

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher

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.



Curiosity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Free Play

As kids arrive...

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and help them find a game or activity to enjoy until the lesson begins.

This is a great opportunity to get to know kids and start building relationships! That happens best when you get on their level and play right along with them.

PRO TIP: This is also a great opportunity for a bathroom reminder!

Worship Playlist

During free play...

Play one of the Spotify playlists as background music while kids arrive.

Clean Up

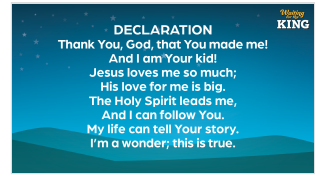
At the end of free play...

Play the Clean Up video to signal time to put away toys and activities. After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots, chairs, or benches to begin the lesson.

Declaring God's Wonder

SUPPLIES: Early Childhood [Slide](#)

Display the Declaration [Slide](#) and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.



Hello friends! It's so good to be here with all of you at church today! We like to start our time together with something special called a declaration. These words that we're going to say together remind us of what God says is true about me and you! You can repeat after me!

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").



Belief

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the Promised King

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1

MEMORY VERSE: From Isaiah 9:6

Worship

SUPPLIES: Worship music videos

Today we'll learn about how Jesus is the promised King that people were waiting for. Let's sing about how good God is!

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You that we are here together and that Your Holy Spirit is with us. Today help us learn more about how You always keep Your promises. Thank You for keeping the best promise—the promise to send Jesus as King! We want to see, feel, hear, and know Your great love. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Luke in the Bible.

God's Big STORY SCRIPT: MARY

SUPPLIES: Bible, [God's Big Story Sheets](#), [God's Big Story Cards](#) (1 set per kid), [God's Big Story Video](#)

Ahead of time, print a copy of the [God's Big Story Sheets](#) for the storyteller and print one copy per kid of the [God's Big Story Cards](#). Cut the cards apart and place one set in each resealable baggie (or paperclip each set together).

Before you begin, pass out a set of cards to each kid. While telling God's big story, you will hold up the large picture of each card and invite the kids to find the matching card and hold it up.



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 picture #1: Clock. **Can you find the card in your bag that matches my picture?** Invite the kids to hold up their cards, and then place them on the floor or table in front of them.

And during that time of waiting, God was moving, even when people could not see it.

God was preparing the way for Jesus. God made it possible for a couple named Zechariah and Elizabeth to have a baby. Their baby, John, was going to help everyone get ready for the special King, Jesus!

When Elizabeth was pregnant with John, an angel visited her cousin, Mary. Hold up picture #2: Mary. **Can you find the card in your bag that matches my picture?** Invite the kids to hold up their cards, and then place them on the floor or table in front of them next to card #1.

An angel came to Mary and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you" (Luke 1:28). Mary was surprised. What did this mean? The angel told Mary not to be afraid because God was very happy with her. God was going to do something amazing, and Mary was going to be a part of it. The angel told her that she would have a baby boy. The angel said, "You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people" (Luke 1:31-33).

Hold up picture #3: Baby. **Can you find the card in your bag that matches my picture?** Invite the kids to hold up their cards, and then place them on the floor or table in front of them next to cards #1 and #2.

Wow! Did the angel just say what Mary thought he said? Did he just say that Mary was going to have a baby, and that baby was the King everyone was waiting for—the King from God who would be in charge forever?

"How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. (Luke 1:34). It was a good question. After all, she wasn't even married yet! The angel told her that the Holy Spirit was going to put the baby in her belly. The angel also told Mary what God was doing to prepare the way for Jesus. He told her that her cousin, Elizabeth, was going to have a baby too, even though she was old and people thought

she couldn't have children. "What God says will always come true," the angel said (Luke 1:37). "I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would" (Luke 1:38).

After that, Mary went to go see Elizabeth. When Mary greeted Elizabeth, the baby inside Elizabeth's belly jumped with joy, and the Holy Spirit was with Elizabeth. Elizabeth said that God was happy with Mary and with the baby inside Mary. Elizabeth said that Mary was the mother of the King who God promised long ago. The King was coming!

Then Mary sang a song to thank God. Hold up picture #4: Music notes. Can you find the card that matches my picture? Invite the kids to hold up their cards, and then place them on the floor or table in front of them next to the other cards.

She praised God for what He was doing. She praised Him for what He had done, for His kindness, and for keeping His promises. After all, God had just kept the biggest promise of all. The King was coming! Jesus was coming! Jesus is the promised King!

Watch God's Big Story

Watch the [Mary God's Big Story!](#)



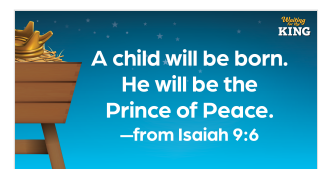
Connecting the Wonder Truth

Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS IS THE PROMISED KING.**

God promised King David that one of David's relatives would rule as King forever (2 Samuel 7:11–13). Then Daniel had a dream of one like a son of man ruling a kingdom that never ends (Daniel 7:13–14). Jesus is both of these things! Jesus is from David's family line, and He is the everlasting King!

Memory Verse

SUPPLIES: baby doll, [Memory Verse Slide](#)



MEMORY VERSE

**A child will be born. He will be the
Prince of Peace.**

—from Isaiah 9:6

God promised long ago that a child would be born, and that the child would be the Prince of Peace. God kept that promise in Jesus! Jesus is the promised King!

Have kids get into a circle. Hold the baby doll in your arms. Recite the verse as you hold the baby. Then, pass the baby around the circle and allow each child a turn to hold the baby and say the verse. Ask the kids to speak softly and pass the baby gently, pretending they are holding a real baby. As one child holds the baby doll, encourage the other kids to do the motions for the memory verse and join in saying the verse.

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

- **A CHILD WILL BE BORN.**—*Pretend to rock a baby.*
- **HE WILL BE**—*Point up.*
- **THE PRINCE OF PEACE.**—*Pretend to place a crown on your head.*
- **FROM ISAIAH 9:6**—*Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How does it feel to know that God always keeps His promises?**
- **Do you think people expected the promised King to come as a baby? What makes you think so?**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Circle Time: Discussion and Prayer

SUPPLIES: coloring sheets, crayons, prizes

Divide kids into smaller groups, each with a leader. Pass out coloring sheets to keep hands busy while you discuss the Bible story. Don't forget to practice the memory verse and award prizes!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In **Luke chapter 1**, the angel (hold up the angel) **gave Mary good news. It was news that people had been waiting many, many years to hear. I remember one time, when I was younger ...** (share a story of a time when you heard some good news as a child, such as getting a treat after school, or a relative coming to visit, or a sibling being born).

Have you ever gotten some good news? What was it? Allow kids to answer.

- **What message did the angel give Mary?** (*Mary was going to have a baby, and the baby was the promised King.*)
- **How do you think Mary felt when she saw the angel?**
- **Who did Mary go visit after she heard from the angel?** (*Her cousin Elizabeth*)
- **What happened to the baby in Elizabeth's belly when she greeted Mary?** (*The baby leaped inside of her.*)
- **Why do you think the baby inside of Elizabeth's belly leaped?**
- **How did Mary worship God?** (*With a song*)
- **What are some ways we can worship God?**

One of the things that makes Jesus a good King is that He always hears our prayers. Let's talk to God now in prayer! What do you want to pray about today?

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for always hearing us and caring for us, just like a good king does!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish discussion, pray with them, thanking God for always keeping His promises and for giving us Jesus as the promised King.

Let's pray and thank God for always keeping His promises.

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.

Use the following activities to reinforce the lesson and keep kids engaged during pick up.

The closing activities can be done in small groups or together as a class.

Option 1: Jump for Joy and Jesus

When Mary went to greet her cousin Elizabeth, do you remember what the baby in Elizabeth's belly did? The baby, John, jumped for joy when he was still inside his mommy's belly. Probably because the promised King was visiting. Let's play a game where we jump for joy because Jesus is the promised King!

Have the kids sit down. Explain that the kids should jump up when they hear: Jesus, jump, or joy. They should not jump up if they hear another "J" word, such as: juice, Jack, jellybean, joke, jingle, Joe, juggle, July, jet, jewelry, etc. Begin calling out words, alternating between words that make them jump up and words that are not jumping words. Experiment with saying lots of Jesus, jump, and joy in a row to get them jumping a lot.

To extend the activity, you can play another version of the game. Similar to Red Light, Green Light, have the kids line up across the room from you. Explain that if you say Jesus, jump, or joy, they can take one jump toward you. But if you say any other "J" word they should not move.

Option 2: Greeting Relay

Ahead of time, clear a large area in your space where the kids can freely move around. Kids will need to line up on both sides of the open area and move back and forth.

In God's big story today, the angel greeted Mary with a very exciting message. Then Mary traveled and greeted her cousin Elizabeth. Mary got a good greeting and then she gave a good greeting! Let's play a game where we get to give each other good greetings!

Divide the kids into teams of four to six. Split each team in half and have them stand directly across from each other. **When the game starts, the first person from each team (designate which side goes first) will run across to the other members of her own team. When those kids reach their team members on the other side, they will give the next people a specific greeting that I call out before that team member can then start running.**

Every member of the team goes back and forth giving the same greeting until everyone has gone. You can play multiple rounds, using a different greeting with each round.

Round 1: Give a high-five.

Round 2: Give a fist bump.

Round 3: Shake hands.

Round 4: Say, "Hi, friend!"

Round 5: Say, "Jesus is the promised King!"