



Advent 2: God's Promise to Mary

Lesson Aim: To know we can trust God to keep His promises because nothing is impossible with God.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God of Peace

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 1:26-38

What He has done: God promised Mary she would give birth to His Son Jesus.

Key Verse: Luke 1:37

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Isaiah 7:14

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulders: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

Unit 10: The Promised One			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Isaiah and the Prince of Peace, Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; 25:8; 53:5	God gave Isaiah prophecies about Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection.	To know Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecies.
49	Advent 2: God's Promise to Mary, Luke 1:26-38	God promised Mary she would give birth to His Son Jesus.	To know we can trust God to keep His promises because nothing is impossible with God.
50	Advent 3: John the Baptist, Luke 1:16-17, 41, 76-79; 3:12-16; John 1:29	God sent John the Baptist to point others to the promised Savior.	To challenge children to repent and point others to Jesus.
51	Advent 4: Shepherds See the Promised One, Luke 2:4-18; Hebrews 11:6; John 14:27	God sent His Son to bring peace.	To understand believers have the promised peace through faith in Jesus.
52	The Story of God and His People, Jeremiah 24:7; 2 Chronicles 7:14	God gave us the Bible to tell the story of God and His people.	To understand the Bible is the story of God and His people.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Luke 1:46-56. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for including Your servant Mary in fulfilling Your promise of salvation. May we glorify You as Mary did in her willing heart and her courage to believe. Amen."

WHAT ABOUT SANTA? Many cultures incorporate the story of Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) into their family traditions at Christmas. Many young children are very excited about this tradition. To honor all parents, our role as Bible teachers is not to address (validate or invalidate) their family traditions, but to redirect their focus to celebrate the gift of God's Son.

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Promise Messengers	Colored note cards (or colored paper cut into cards), marker
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Advent wreath Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "For Unto Us" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Bring You Good News" "For God So Loved the World" "King of Kings" "At the Name of Jesus" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Joy to the World" "Away in a Manger" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Christmas by Worship Jamz Shout Praises Kids Christmas by Integrity Media
		Advent Scripture Reading: Luke 1:31-33	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 49 The Love Sub script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Luke 1:26-38	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters, small pieces of paper or notecards, pencils
		Christ Connection: Isaiah 7:14	
	Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treats—Angel magnet, W ³ s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "For Unto Us," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Angel Snack	Angel food cake (or similar white, fluffy snack)
	Up to 10	Game: Miracle Color Quiz	Multi-colored candies (e.g., candy-coated chocolate pieces, gumballs), stickers, or colored pieces of paper
	Up to 15	Craft: Nothing is Impossible Wreath	Sturdy green and red paper, sequins or glitter, crayons or markers, small paper cups, glue, scissors
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Appearing Angel	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase or poster board, marker
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Toss-A-Verse	Large ball (inflatable beach ball, rubber ball, etc.), permanent marker
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is one thing that is impossible for you to do?

GAME: PROMISE MESSENGERS

Purpose: Children will be introduced to the idea that nothing is impossible with God.

Supplies: Colored note cards (or colored paper cut into cards), marker

Prepare: For each team, create a set of cards by writing each of the following words from Luke 1:37 on a separate note card: **"For nothing is impossible with God."** Use a different color card for each team. For younger children or non-readers, number the cards in order.

Today, we will learn about the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary. We have been learning about prophets who are God's messengers. Angels are God's messengers, too. They are heavenly beings. Mary was probably very surprised to see Gabriel and to hear God's message for her. Let's play a game to find out part of God's message to Mary.

Directions:

1. Form teams of three to six children.
2. Assign each team a card color and have them form a line at one end of the play area.
3. At the opposite end of the play area, scatter all the note cards word-side down.
4. On your signal, the first member from each team runs to get a card that matches their team color, runs back to the team, and tags the next child in line.
5. Children repeat step 4 until they have all six cards.
6. After each team has their cards, they must work together to put the cards in order.
7. When teams believe they have their cards in order, instruct them to read the message aloud together and then sit down.

What is impossible for God to do? (Nothing.) Who would be with Mary? (The Lord, God.) God had important plans for her. She must have been very thankful God was with her. Let's read our Bible story and find out the rest of God's message.



The God of Peace

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Before worship, light the first candle on the Advent wreath.



Today, we worship the God of Peace. It may seem impossible to have peace between God and people or between groups of people, but nothing is impossible with God. With Him, miracles are possible. The greatest miracle of all was when God sent His only Son to be the Savior of the world. Let's celebrate that gift as we give our offerings. Sing: "For God So Loved the World" as the offering is collected.

Mary sang a song praising God for the mighty things He had already done. She trusted God to do the mighty things He promised to do in the future. When Gabriel told Mary the Savior would come as a baby, she may have remembered the Bible verses spoken by the prophet Isaiah hundreds of years before. As we sing those words together, imagine how Mary may have felt to know her child would be her Savior, the Prince of Peace. Sing Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "For Unto Us."



Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony: The Promise Candle

Advent Wreath: 4 candles set in a wreath of greenery with gold trim

At Christmastime, we get our hearts ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus by lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath. Advent means coming—the coming of Jesus. The Advent season helps get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Our Advent Wreath is round; it has no end, just as God's love for us has no end.

Each candle on the Advent Wreath stands for one of the four Sundays before Christmas. Today, we light the second candle of Advent: The Promise Candle. As we light the Promise Candle, imagine what it would be like if an angel appeared to you with a promise from God. Choose a child to light the second candle now.



As you look at the candlelight, listen to the words of the angel Gabriel as he announced God's promise to Mary. Read Luke 1:31-33.



Today, we celebrate the fact that God sent Gabriel to tell Mary she would have a baby who would be the Son of God. Sing: "I Bring You Good News." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on the birth of Christ.



Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 49.



Gabriel visits Mary

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned Isaiah's prophecy about the coming of the Savior. Today, we will learn how God sent an angel to the small town of Nazareth with a message for Mary about how that Savior would be born. If a map is available, point to Nazareth, Israel.

During the 400 years before the birth of Jesus, God sent no more prophecies to His people. It was a time of waiting. Then, at just the right time, God sent the angel Gabriel to a teenager named Mary with a prophecy about the coming of the Lord. Let's find out exactly what Gabriel said. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to the Birth of Jesus (Circa 1 A.D.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Luke 1:26-38. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Luke 1:37.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

As we read, imagine what it would have been like to see an angel and hear God's promise to change the world through you. Read Luke 1:26-38.



Nothing is impossible with God

THE WAY

Additional Supplies: Small pieces of paper or notecards, pencils

Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid because God loved her and was with her. How are his words true for you? (Children respond.) **God loves you and His Spirit is with you now. He promised to send a Savior who would change the world. He chose Mary as a young teenager to help make that promise come true. God will continue to change the world and build His kingdom through the power of the Holy Spirit working in any of us who are willing. What are some ways God can change the world and build His kingdom through you right now?** (Through sharing His love, serving others, telling others about Jesus, making choices that are right in His eyes, etc.) **What are some of the biggest problems the world faces today?** (Hunger, poverty, disease, terrorism, war, etc.) **Do you believe God can use you to change the world in facing these challenges?** (Children respond.) **Jesus tells us the two most important commandments are to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind, and to love your neighbor as yourself. How can obeying those two commandments change the world?** (Children respond.) After children respond, provide examples of local and global outreach and service opportunities.

Sometimes, it is hard to believe God will use us in mighty ways. What were Gabriel's last words to Mary? ("Nothing is impossible with God.") **When has God done something in your life that you thought was impossible?** (Children respond.) Distribute paper and pencils. **Is there something you are now hoping for that seems impossible?** (Children respond.) **Write down today's date and one or two things in your life that seem impossible to you. Keep your list in a special place. From time to time, look back on your list and see if God has indeed accomplished the very things you thought were impossible.**

Mary asked how God's promise would happen, because it seemed impossible. Just like Mary, sometimes we may have questions about God's plan. If the angel Gabriel suddenly appeared, what would you ask him about God's plan for you? (Children respond.) **What were Mary's last words to the angel?** ("May it be to me as you have said.") **Mary trusted God to keep His promise. She wanted to do whatever He had chosen for her to do."**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

700 years before the angel Gabriel told Mary she would give birth to the Savior, Isaiah gave a prophecy from God about a sign that would help people know when the Savior had been born. The sign was about a virgin; a virgin is a girl who is pure and has never been married. Listen to the sign the Lord promised to give us.



FIND IT FIRST > **Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap.** Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Isaiah 7:14. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Isaiah 7:14.

Over 700 years before Mary was born, God had already chosen her to be the mother of Jesus. Before you were born, God had already chosen amazing plans for you. Let's pray that each of us will be willing to trust God's promised plan, just as Mary did. Lead a prayer asking God to help us trust His promises and plan for our lives. This prayer may be included in the Golden Bowl.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is an angel magnet with the angel Gabriel's message, "Nothing is impossible with God." Display it in a place where it can remind you and your family that all things are possible with our God.

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #49. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the angel Gabriel telling Mary nothing is impossible with God.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, "For Unto Us," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: ANGEL CAKE

Purpose: Children will eat a snack that reminds them of the angel Gabriel.

Snack Suggestion: Angel food cake (or similar white, fluffy snack)

Who was Gabriel? (An angel.) **Why did Gabriel visit Mary?** (To deliver a promise from God.) **Gabriel gave God's promise to Mary. She must have been very surprised to see an angel! Let's eat some angel food cake and talk about your biggest surprises.**

Directions:

1. Distribute the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is the biggest surprise you have ever had?"**

GAME: MIRACLE COLOR QUIZ

Purpose: Children tell of a miracle proving that nothing is impossible for God.

Supplies: Multi-colored candies (e.g., candy-coated chocolate pieces, gumballs), stickers, or colored pieces of paper

Gabriel said, "Nothing is impossible with God." When God does something that seems impossible to us, we call it a miracle. Name the miracles we learned about in our Bible story today? (An angel appeared to Mary. Mary would be the mother of Jesus. Elizabeth was going to have a baby even though she was very old.) **Let's share some of the miracles we have read about in the Bible or have happened to you or someone you know.**

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Each child chooses up to five pieces of candy.
3. Choose one child to go first.
4. For each different color of candy he or she is holding, that child shares one of God's miracles. The miracles can be from the Bible, personal experience, or a miracle the child has heard about. Children may eat their snack when their turn is done.
5. Repeat until each child has had a turn.

Teacher Tip: Challenge children who are familiar with many Bible stories to not repeat miracles someone has already mentioned. If children need help remembering miracles, give hints or suggest one of the following: God created the world, God parted the Red Sea, God took Elijah to heaven in a chariot, Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus fed 5,000 people, Jesus healed a man's sight, Jesus walked on water, Jesus rose from the dead.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WREATH

Purpose: To create a Christmas decoration as a reminder that nothing is impossible with God.

Supplies: Sturdy green and red paper, sequins or glitter, crayons or markers, small paper cups, glue, scissors

Prepare: Write where children can see to copy:

“Nothing is impossible with God.”

Luke 1:37

Teacher Tip: If you have limited time, pre-cut most of the hand shapes and berries for each child. Let them trace and cut out one or two of their own hand shapes and/or berries.

Options: Add a loop of ribbon at the top for a hanger. Instead of red and green, use colors that are traditional Christmas colors in your area. Instead of wreaths, make a “Nothing Is Impossible” Crown, providing children with a crown shape to label and decorate.

God sent the angel Gabriel to give a message to Mary. What promise did God give to her? (She would have baby Jesus who is God’s Son.) **At first Mary did not think God’s promise was possible. Why was God able to keep His promise?** (God can do anything.) **God kept His promise to Mary and now we celebrate Jesus’ birth at Christmas. God will keep His promises to you, too. Let’s make a Christmas decoration to help you remember that nothing is impossible with God. He keeps all His promises!**

Directions:

1. Trace and cut out your open hand eight times onto green paper.
2. Overlap hand shape cutouts at the wrists in a circular shape with the fingers pointing out to make the leaves for the wreath.
3. Glue the hands together.
4. Trace the rim of a cup three times onto red paper.
5. Cut out the red circles for berries.
6. Divide the following verse into three parts and copy one part onto each berry: **“Nothing is impossible with God.” Luke 1:37**
7. Glue the berries to your wreath.
8. Decorate the wreath with sequins or glitter.
9. Take your wreath home and hang it on a door or wall at Christmas time.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulders: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

GAME: APPEARING ANGEL

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6.

Supplies: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase or poster board, marker

Prepare: Display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. Choose one of the phrases below. On a dry erase or poster board, draw one line for each letter in the phrase. Include a blank space between each word.
2. Choose a child to guess a letter. If the letter is found in the phrase, write it on every blank where it belongs. If the letter is not in the phrase, draw one part of an angel (Robe, head, hands, feet, smile, eyes, nose, hair, etc.) on another part of the dry erase or poster board.
3. Choose another child to guess a letter.
4. Continue playing until the children have guessed the phrase or until the angel drawing is complete. The goal is to complete the phrase before the angel drawing is completed.
5. After the phrase is revealed, read its meaning below to explain that part of the verse.
6. If time allows, play again using another phrase. Use different phrases each time you play.

Phrase and meaning

“For unto us a child is born” (Jesus was born as a baby.)

“Unto us a Son is given” (God gave His Son to be our Savior.)

“And the government shall be on His shoulders” (Jesus will one day rule the world.)

“And His name will be called” (There are many names for God.)

“Wonderful Counselor” (The Holy Spirit guides us to do things God’s way.)

“Mighty God” (God is so strong that He can do anything.)

“The Everlasting Father” (God is our heavenly Father forever.)

“The Prince of Peace” (Jesus gives us peace with God, and peace in our hearts.)

GAME: TOSS-A-VERSE

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6.

Supplies: Large ball (inflatable beach ball, soccer ball, etc.), permanent marker

Prepare: Write the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse on the ball.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. One child holds the ball and quickly says the first word of the verse. The child then tosses the ball to another child who says the next word.
3. Continue tossing the ball until the verse is completed.
4. Children may use the verse written on the ball to help them remember the words, but encourage them to learn the verse as they play.

Option: Divide into two or more teams. Have teams race against each other to complete the game first.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Elijah through Malachi. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.) Malachi was the last prophet to speak before the birth of Jesus. He gave God's message that the people were robbing God by not bringing their tithes and offerings to Him. What is a tithe? (A tithe is giving one tenth of our riches to God's house.) God challenged the people to tithe and see how God would bless them.

400 Years of Silence (Circa 400 B.C.-1 B.C.) Malachi was the last Old Testament prophet to speak before the birth of Christ. This period is known as the 400 years of silence because there were no new prophecies. Over the previous 800 years, God's people had heard many prophecies from God's prophets, including Isaiah's prophecy about the coming of the Lord and what He would accomplish.

The Birth of Jesus (Circa 1 A.D.) A.D. stands for Anno Domini, which means "the Year of our Lord." A.D. begins with Jesus' birth and continues until the end of time. Everything written in the law and the prophets led up to the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. God used the angels, Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah, John the Baptist, shepherds, and the heavenly host to fulfill the prophecies about the coming Savior. Sin separates each person from God, so He gave His only Son Jesus as that Savior. Whoever believes in Him will have life forever close with God.

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah through Malachi:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 cards for Prophets & Promises Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Elijah – Malachi: Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-2 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 7-2 B.C.)