



Advent 2: Angel Visits— Mary and Joseph

Lesson Aim: To remember that nothing
 is impossible with God.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Comes Near

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 1:28-37; Matthew 1:20-21

What He has done: God sent His angel Gabriel to prepare Mary for the birth of Jesus.

Key Verse: Luke 1:28

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Genesis 28:15

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest." Luke 2:10b, 11, 14a

Unit 10: The God Who Comes Near			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Gabriel Visits Zechariah, Luke 1:5-25, 62-65	God sent His angel Gabriel to tell Zechariah the good news.	To look for ways God comes near to us and to find ways to come near to Him.
49	Advent 2: Angel Visits— Mary and Joseph, Luke 1:28-37; Matthew 1:20-21	God sent His angel Gabriel to prepare Mary for the birth of Jesus.	To remember that nothing is impossible with God.
50	Advent 3: Jesus Is Born, Luke 2:1-7, John 1:1-2	Jesus was born.	To see God has specific plans for how He comes near to us.
51	Advent 4: An Angel Visits the Shepherds, Luke 2:8-18	God sent an angel to announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds.	To know the good news of Jesus' birth is for all people.
52	Following the Star, Matthew 2:1-12	God sent a star to guide the Magi to Jesus.	To know God leads all of us to Jesus.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Luke 1:46-55. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for sending Gabriel to visit Mary. Excite the hearts of the children to look for the different ways You choose to come near to each of us. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Highly Favored	Balloons
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Bring You Good News" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Search Me, O God" "For God So Loved the World" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" "Angels We Have Heard on High" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Christmas—Worship Jamz Shout Praises Kids Christmas
		Worship Scripture Reading: Luke 1:28-31, 35	Bible, Advent wreath with candles. See THE WORSHIP for other supplies.
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 49 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Luke 1:28-37; Matthew 1:20-21	Map—City of Nazareth, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discussion	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Genesis 28:15	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Happy face button or sticker, W ³ s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Disappearing Angel Face Cupcakes	Frosted cupcakes, edible decorations (sprinkles, chocolate chips, colored sugar, raisins, berries, etc.), white paper plates
	Up to 10	Game: The Lord Is with You	Chairs (or children may sit on floor), dry erase board and marker (or chalkboard and chalk or large piece of paper and pencil)
	Up to 10	Craft: "The Lord Is with You" Angel Ornament	Sturdy white paper, cup to trace, white yarn or pipe cleaner, tape, pencils, scissors, optional: glitter and yellow yarn
	Up to 10	Discussion: Believe and Ask	Drawing paper, markers or crayons
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Appearing Angel	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase board and marker (or chalkboard and chalk or large piece of paper and pencil)
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Circle	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News," CD player
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Timeline

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 the first thing you would say to an angel?

GAME: HIGHLY FAVORED

Purpose: To understand what Gabriel meant when he said Mary was highly favored.

Supplies: Balloons (Only one balloon is needed, but keep extras available in case a balloon breaks.)

Prepare: Inflate balloon.

In today's Bible story, the angel Gabriel tells Mary she is "highly favored." That means God was very pleased with her. God fills our lives with many people, places, and things that are pleasing to us, that we highly favor.

Directions:

1. Seat the children in a circle.
2. Give the balloon to one of the children in the circle. After bopping the balloon upward, the child must name a person, place, or thing he or she highly favors.
3. Each time a child bops the balloon, he or she must name a person, place, or thing he or she highly favors.
4. Keep playing until each child has at least one turn bopping the balloon.



The God who comes near

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 worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

In preparation for Advent candle lighting, light the first candle on the Advent wreath.



Today, we worship the God who comes near. He came near to Mary by sending His angel Gabriel to tell her she would have God's Son. He came near to us by sending His Son to earth. Let's celebrate as we sing and give Him our offering. While collecting the offering, sing: "For God So Loved the World."



Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony: Mary's Candle

Advent Wreath: 4 candles set in a wreath of greenery

At Christmas time, 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. 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: Mary's candle. The candle lighting takes place during the performance of *High Seas Adventures* script or after reading the storybook version.



Before we light Mary's candle, let's check out what's happening with our friends in High Seas Adventures. Perform *High Seas Adventures* script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 10, Lesson 49.

If you chose to read the storybook, choose one child to light the second candle on the Advent wreath now and read Luke 1:28-31, 35.



Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant." She sang a song of praise for all the great things the Lord had done for her. We are His servants, too. Let's sing of the great thing He did for us when He sent His Son to earth. Sing Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Bring You Good News." You may choose to sing other songs that focus on the birth of Christ.



An angel came to Mary and to Joseph

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 his or her 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 how God was preparing His people for the coming birth of Jesus. Who remembers the name of the angel God sent to Zechariah? (Gabriel.) Gabriel told Zechariah to name his baby boy John. He was unable to speak until baby John was born. Today, we will see that God sent the same angel to tell Mary she would have a baby. Who knows the name of Mary's baby? (Jesus.) If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Jesus on Earth (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 1:28-37; Matthew 1:20-21. Let's see who can find Luke 1:28-37 first. Ready? Set? Go! Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. Let's highlight our Key Verse: Luke 1:28.

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.

Listen carefully to the story of the angel Gabriel and Mary. Read Luke 1:28-37. Then, an angel came to Joseph. Let's read what the angel told him. Read Matthew 1:20-21.



Nothing is impossible

THE WAY

When an angel appears with a message, it's a miracle. When a Bible prophecy is fulfilled, it's a miracle. At the time of Jesus' birth, there were many miracles occurring. Let's look at Matthew 1:20-21 and Luke 1:28-37 and list how many miracles Mary and Joseph saw or heard about from Gabriel. (Mary becoming the mother of God, Elizabeth becoming pregnant, God sending His Son to earth, Jesus saving people from their sins, etc.)

What kind of questions would you have asked the angel if you were Mary or Joseph? (Children respond.) **What were the angel's final words to Mary?** ("Nothing is impossible with God.")

Mary may have wondered why God chose her. God chooses each of us to do important things in His kingdom. Just as Mary and Joseph faced challenges in doing what God had chosen for them to do, we will also face challenges. Why will it be important for you to always remember Gabriel's final words? (To encourage you when you need a miracle!)

A miracle is an amazing event or action that appears to be impossible or contrary to the laws of nature. Have you ever seen a miracle? (Children respond.) **Do you believe in miracles?** (Children respond.) **Do you need a miracle today?** (Children respond.) Discuss prayer requests and lead the children in prayer. Ask for miracles and for faith to believe that nothing is impossible with God.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Gabriel told Mary, "The Lord is with you." Almost two thousand years before Gabriel spoke to Mary, the Lord gave a message to Jacob when he dreamed of angels going up and down a stairway that led to heaven. Let's find out what that message was.



FIND IT FIRST Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Genesis 28:15. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Genesis 28:15.

In his dream, Jacob learned someone was with him. Who was with Jacob? (The Lord.) **Who was with Mary?** (The Lord.) **Imagine an angel appearing to us right now. Who do you think he would say is with us?** (The Lord!) **How might those words give you courage today?** (Children respond.)

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 will 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 a happy face button (or sticker). Wear it to remind you of Gabriel's happy greeting to Mary, "You are highly favored. The Lord is with you." This week, remember God is always with you and remember to do what pleases Him.

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, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Gabriel telling Mary the good news. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

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, "I Bring You Good News," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: DISAPPEARING ANGEL FACE CUPCAKES

Purpose: To create and enjoy a sweet reminder of Gabriel's miraculous visit with Mary.

Snack Suggestion: Frosted cupcakes, edible decorations (sprinkles, chocolate chips, colored sugar, raisins, berries, etc.), white paper plates

Prepare: Bake and frost cupcakes (one per child) but do not decorate. Draw a cupcake-size circle in the center of each plate. Draw the angel's robe by drawing a triangle from the bottom of the circle to two points on the lower rim of the paper plate. Draw two wings on the upper side of the plate.

It's a miracle every time an angel appears or disappears. Today, we are going to make angel face cupcakes appear and disappear. Decorate your cupcake any way you choose to make the angel face appear. Then, as we enjoy our snack, we will watch all the angel face cupcakes disappear!

Directions:

1. Serve the snack.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. Each child places a cupcake in the center of a plate and uses the edible decorations to make the angel's face.
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **How do angels remind us God is with us? What do you think angels look or sound like?**
5. When all the cupcakes are eaten, see how the angel faces have disappeared!

GAME: THE LORD IS WITH YOU

Purpose: This race reminds children of many places in which the Lord is with them.

Supplies: Chairs (or children may sit on floor), dry erase board and marker (or chalkboard and chalk or large piece of paper and pencil)

The Lord is with you wherever you go. Let's see how many places we can think of where the Lord is with us.

Directions:

1. Divide children into two teams.
2. Have teams place their chairs in two lines six feet apart facing each other.
3. As children suggest places they go where God is with them (ie. school, home, playground, mall, etc.), write their suggestions on large paper. Continue until you have a location for each member of a team. For example, if each team has ten members, then you need ten suggestions.
4. Starting with the first player on each team, assign a child on each team one of the places suggested. For example, the first players might be assigned "school," the second players "home," the third players "playground," etc.
5. Call out **"The Lord is with you at insert one of the locations."**
6. The two children who were assigned that location race around their team's chairs. The child who returns to his or her seat first wins a point for their team.
7. Continue until every player has a turn. The team with the most points wins.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: "THE LORD IS WITH YOU" ANGEL ORNAMENT

Purpose: Children create an angel ornament to remember Gabriel's words to Mary.

Supplies: Sturdy white paper, cup to trace, white yarn or pipe cleaner, tape, pencils, scissors, optional: glitter and yellow yarn

Prepare: For the children to copy, display the words: **"The Lord is with you." Luke 1:28.**

Gabriel said to Mary, "The Lord is with you." This angel ornament will be made from the outline of our hands and feet to remind us the Lord is with us wherever we go on our feet and whatever we do with our hands!

Directions:

1. Place one shoe or barefoot on paper and trace the outline.
2. Place each palm on paper, fingers together, and trace the outline.
3. Place the bottom of a cup on paper and trace the outline.
4. Cut out the foot, hands, and circle shapes.
5. For the angel's head and robe, glue the circle to the heel of the paper foot.
6. For the angel's wings, glue the paper hands to the back of the angel robe.
7. Copy **"The Lord is with you." Luke 1:28** on the front of the angel robe.
8. Draw the angel's face on the paper circle.
9. Optional: Decorate the robe and wings with glitter. Add yarn for hair.
10. To hang, tape a loop of yarn or pipe cleaner to the back of the circle.
11. Hang the ornament in your home or give it as a gift. Tell people that Gabriel told Mary, "The Lord is with you."

DISCUSSION: BELIEVE AND ASK

Purpose: To have a discussion revealing that believing hearts can ask questions about God.

Supplies: Drawing paper, markers or crayons

Distribute paper with markers or crayons. **Mary believed God would do exactly what Gabriel said, but she didn't understand how it would happen. She questioned Gabriel about it. Do you think it is alright to ask questions about God?** (Children respond.) **Many people who believe in God have questions about Him and His Word. Is there something you would like to ask God? Draw a picture or a symbol of something you would like to understand better about Him.**

As the children draw pictures or symbols, discuss their questions. The teacher does not need to be able to answer every question, but always affirm the child's curiosity. A great response to a difficult question would be: **"That is a great question. I can't wait to see how God will answer that for us!"**

Fold your paper and take it home. Keep it in a special place to remember your question. I can't wait to see how God will answer your questions!

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

He is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest." Luke 2:10b, 11, 14a

GAME: APPEARING ANGEL

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Luke 2:10b, 11, 14a.

Supplies: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase board and marker (or chalkboard and chalk or large piece of paper and pencil)

Prepare: Display the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. From the list below, choose one of the phrases of the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.
2. Draw one line for each letter in the phrase. Leave a blank space between each word.
3. Choose a volunteer to guess a letter.
 - a. If the letter is found in the phrase, write it on every blank where it belongs.
 - b. If it is not in the phrase, draw one part of an angel (Head, robe, hands, feet, eyes, nose, mouth, hair, etc.) The goal is to guess all the letters before completing the angel.
4. Choose another volunteer to guess a letter.
5. Continue playing until all the letters are revealed or until the angel drawing is complete.
6. Read the phrase to the class and use the description below to explain that part of the verse.
7. If time allows, play again using another phrase.

Phrase

"I bring you good news of great joy."

"That will be for all the people."

"Today in the town of David,"

"A Savior has been born to you."

"He is Christ the Lord."

"Glory to God in the highest."

Description

The angel brought an announcement from God.

The announcement was for everyone.

Both Jesus and King David were born in Bethlehem.

Jesus came to save the world.

Jesus is the Lord Himself, the Messiah.

The heavenly host praised God with these words.

GAME: MEMORY VERSE CIRCLE

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News," CD player

Directions:

1. Practice the verse together a few times.
2. Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song and sing along.
3. Children sit on chairs or kneel in a circle.
4. Pick one child to stand and say the first word of the Bible Memory Verse, "I."
5. The next child stands and says "bring." Continue around the circle until the Bible Memory Verse has been completed.
6. Play as often as you like. Challenge the children to see how fast they can say the verse or try reversing directions.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.) Who replaced Moses as the leader of the Israelites? (Joshua.) **How did Rahab help the two spies Joshua sent to Jericho?** (She hid them and helped them escape.) **What was God's plan for conquering Jericho?** (The Israelites marched around the city with the ark for six days. On the seventh day, after a long trumpet blast, everyone shouted and the wall crumbled to the ground.)

John the Baptist (Circa 1 A.D.) Who did God send to prepare Zechariah for the special son he and his wife Elizabeth would have? (The angel Gabriel.) **What happened to Zechariah when he didn't believe Gabriel?** (He could not speak until the baby was born.) **Who was the baby?** (John the Baptist.) **John prepared people for the coming of Jesus, our Savior.**

Jesus on Earth (Circa 1 A.D.) A.D. stands for Anno Domini, which means "in the year of our Lord." A.D. begins with Jesus' birth and continues until the end of time. Everything written in Genesis through Malachi led up to the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The books of Genesis through Joshua are filled with miracles from the God of Wonders. His greatest miracle of all was announced by angels to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. In this miracle, God gave Jesus, His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him will have life forever close with God.

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

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 two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Unit 10: John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)