



Advent 2: Gabriel and Mary

Lesson Aim: To know the Lord is with us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Comes Near

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 1:28-33

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

THE WAY - BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Glory to God in the highest!" Luke 2:14a

Unit 10: The God Who Comes Near			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Gabriel Visits Zechariah, Luke 1:11-22, 62-64	God sent His angel Gabriel to tell Zechariah the good news.	To know God gets believers ready for Christmas.
49	Advent 2: Gabriel and Mary, Luke 1:28-33	God sent His angel Gabriel to prepare Mary for the birth of Jesus.	To know the Lord is with us.
50	Advent 3: Jesus Is Born, Luke 2:1-7	God gave us His Son, baby Jesus.	To know Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem.
51	Advent 4: An Angel Visits the Shepherds, Luke 2:8-16	God sent an angel to announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds.	To know God sent an angel to tell the shepherds about Jesus.
52	Following the Star, Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	God sent a star.	To know the wise men followed a star.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

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

TEACHER'S TIP

What about Santa? Many cultures incorporate the story of Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) into their family traditions at Christmas. However, not every family follows this tradition. To honor all parents, our role as Bible teachers is not to address (validate or invalidate) this tradition, but to redirect the children's focus to celebrating the gift of God's Son.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 20	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of an angel
		Coloring Center: Gabriel and Mary	Coloring pages of Gabriel and Mary, heart stickers, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: Christmas Shapes	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Block and Car Center: God Is with Me!	Blocks, cars
		Dramatic Play Center: Baby Jesus	Dishes, cups, napkins, play food, baby, basket, items for a baby's care
		Nativity Center: Mary	Nativity set, Christmas praise music
		Preparing for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org. An Advent Wreath is recommended for the four weeks of Advent. Four purple candles (traditional or battery-operated) are suggested, but use the colors familiar to you. You may choose to include a center Christ candle.	Praise music (you may choose to sing favorite Christmas praise songs), optional: musical instruments Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Bring You Good News" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "His One and Only Son" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Sing Praises" "The Lord Is Faithful" "We Love"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 10, Lesson 49
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Luke 1:28-33	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 1:31 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, baby doll wrapped in a blanket
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Mary Ornament	Mary template for Ages 2-3 (available at ResourceWell.org), sturdy white paper, ribbon or felt for Mary's dress (may substitute paper or fabric), yarn, glue, crayons
		Game: The Lord Is with You	None
		Game: Glory to God Echo	None
		Snack: Surprise!	Any favorite Christmas snack
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10 Lesson 49
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Luke 1:28-33	None
	Up to 10	Game: Glory to God!	Ribbons or strips of cloth or crepe paper, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News"
	Up to 10	Game: Quiet Time	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News"
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about the birth of Jesus

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The God who comes near

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I am glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a sticker or stamp of an angel. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of an angel remind you of the angel Gabriel who came to visit Mary. The angel told Mary, "The Lord is with you."**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: GABRIEL AND MARY

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Gabriel and Mary, heart stickers, crayons

DO

Children color their pictures and add a heart sticker to remember God is with us.

TALK ABOUT

God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary some good news. What it was? (She would be baby Jesus' mother.) **God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother because she was good and kind and she loved God. God told her He would always be with her. God is with us, too. Let's add a heart sticker to our picture to remind us God was with Mary and He is with us.**

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: CHRISTMAS SHAPES

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children create Christmas-related items with the play-dough while discussing today's lesson.

TALK ABOUT

What holiday are we celebrating soon? (Christmas.) **What do we celebrate on Christmas?** (Jesus' birth.) **What could you make with your play-dough to remind you of Jesus' birth?** (Children respond.) You may offer suggestions such as the stable, the animals, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, angels, or a star.

BLOCK AND CAR CENTER: GOD IS WITH ME!

SUPPLIES

Blocks, cars

DO

Children create places God is with them.

TALK ABOUT

No matter where you go, God is always with you. Where do you go that God is with you? (Home, church, school, stores.) **Let's build some places we can go with the blocks. As you drive from place to place with the cars, say "God is with me!" wherever you go.**

THE WELCOME *continued ...*

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: BABY JESUS

SUPPLIES

Baby doll, basket, items for a baby's care

DO

Children take turns caring for the baby doll.

TALK ABOUT

Today, we will hear how Mary found out God was giving her a special baby. Do you know who that baby was? (Jesus.) **Mary had to prepare for Jesus' birth. What do babies need?** (Children respond.) **Let's collect some of the things a baby might need. Then, we can take care of this baby doll like Mary might have taken care of baby Jesus.**

NATIVITY CENTER: MARY

SUPPLIES

Nativity set, Christmas music

DO

Children play with the nativity set. Have the children identify each of the figures in the nativity set. Play Christmas music while children play.

TALK ABOUT

Do you know Jesus' mother's name? (Mary.) **Show me who Mary is. God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary that Jesus was coming. Where is the angel? Who was Jesus' father?** (Joseph.) **Show me Joseph. Who came to see baby Jesus after He was born?** (Shepherds, Wise men.) Have children name the other figures (people and animals) in the nativity.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

**"Glory
to God**

Hold palms together. Top hand moves upward as fingers make wiggling motion.
(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

in the highest."

(highest) Held together, pointer and middle fingers point to the side and are raised in front of the body.

Luke 2:14a

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The God who comes near

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music (you may choose to sing favorite Christmas praise songs), optional: musical instruments, Advent wreath

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 "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.

Advent Wreath: An Advent Wreath is recommended for the four weeks of Advent. Four purple candles (traditional or battery-operated) are suggested, but use the candle colors familiar to you. You may choose to include a center Christ candle.

To prepare for the lighting of the Christmas candles, light the first candle on the Advent wreath.



Christmas is a special time when we remember the birth of Jesus. Let's pray and thank God for this special time. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to earth as a baby. Help us to remember that His birth is why we celebrate Christmas. Amen.**



Sing: "Sing Praises." **God came near when He sent His Son Jesus to live with us. One way we can thank Him is through our offering.** Sing: "Give Thanks to the Lord" while collecting the offering.



The Lighting of the Christmas Candles: Mary's Candle

We light the Christmas candles to get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Last time, we lit the Angel's candle. Today, we light the second candle. We call it Mary's candle to remind us that God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary. Choose a child to assist in lighting the second candle. The candle lighting takes place during the performance of *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello* puppet script or after reading the storybook version.



Before we light the Angel's candle, let's see what Delbert and Lello can tell us about our Christmas candles. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 10, Lesson 49. If you read the storybook, light the candle now.



The angel Gabriel promised Mary she would be the mother of baby Jesus. That was good news! Sing: "I Bring You Good News." Children listen to the verses and sing along on the chorus: "Glory to God in the highest."



"Glory to God in the highest!" Glory to God in the highest means we give our biggest and highest praise and thanks to God. Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse together. Practice with the motions.

"Glory

Hold palms together. Top hand moves upward as fingers make wiggling motion.

to God

(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

in the highest."

(highest) Held together, pointer and middle fingers point to the side and are raised in front of the body.

Luke 2:14a

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



God was with Mary

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 1:31, picture of the Bible story, baby doll wrapped in a blanket

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Hold the baby on your lap. **Who can tell me what babies need?** (Children respond.) **Can babies get all those things themselves?** (No.) **Who takes care of babies?** (Moms, Dads, grandparents, other caregivers.) **Our story today is about a special Mom who was going to have a special baby. Can you tell me who they are?** (Mary and Jesus.) **God sent the angel Gabriel to announce Jesus' birth. Let's listen to our story.** Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 1:31.



WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 1:28-33

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Mary was a teenager, good and kind.**
- **One day she saw an angel bright.**
- **Gabriel, the angel said, "The Lord is with you."**
- **Mary was surprised. She wondered what to do.**
- **But Gabriel said, "Do not be afraid.**
- **The Lord sent me to you this day.**
- **The Lord is very pleased with you.**
- **He is giving you His Son; here is what to do.**
- **Name Him Jesus when He is born.**
- **He will be King forever more."**

What was the first thing the angel told Mary? ("God is with you.") **What did the angel tell Mary to name her Son?** (Jesus.)



The Lord is with you

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: MARY ORNAMENT

Purpose: To know God sent Gabriel to prepare Mary for the birth of Jesus.

Supplies: Mary template for Ages 2-3 (available at ResourceWell.org), sturdy white paper, ribbon or felt for Mary's dress (may substitute paper or fabric), yarn, glue, crayons

Prepare: Print and cut out the Mary template from sturdy white paper. Punch a hole in the top of the cut out. Cut out a piece of ribbon or a square of felt to decorate Mary's dress.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5.

Optional: Cut out Mary and provide an oval of felt or fabric for children to glue the cutout onto for the ornament.

Directions:

1. Before or after the children decorate Mary, thread the yarn through the hole in the top of the ornament and tie the ends together for a hanger.
2. Color Mary.
3. Glue the ribbon or felt onto Mary's dress.

Craft Discussion:

- **How do you think Mary felt when the angel appeared to her?** (Children respond.)
- **How would you feel if an angel appeared to you?** (Children respond.)
- **What would you say to the angel?** (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: THE LORD IS WITH YOU

Purpose: To connect with Mary's experience of speaking with the angel Gabriel.

Supplies: None

The angel Gabriel appeared, called Mary by name, and spoke to her. At first, Mary was surprised and afraid of the angel. Imagine what it would be like for an angel to appear in this room right now and tell you that the Lord is with you.

Directions:

1. Divide the children into two groups and place one group in a line at each end of the play area.
2. The first child from Group 1 runs to the first child in Group 2 and says:
Name of child, name of child, do not be afraid.
The Lord is with you every day!
3. The child from Group 1 returns to the end of his or her group line.
4. The child from Group 2 then runs to the next child in Group 1 and repeats the chant.
5. Repeat until each child has a turn.

GAME: GLORY TO GOD ECHO

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Jesus' birth was good news. When He was born, all the angels sang and said, "Glory to God in the highest!" That means we give our biggest and highest praise and thanks to God. Let's echo our praises to God right now.

Directions:

1. Divide your class into two groups.
2. Assign one group to be the loud echo and one the quiet echo.
3. Say the verse. Have each group echo your words, the loud group first, then the quiet echo.
4. Play a few times.
5. If you have time, reassign which group does each kind of echo and play again or vary how the children do the echo: loud voices, quiet voices, regular voices, or motions only.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SURPRISE!

Purpose: To remember the angel God sent to Mary.

Snack Suggestion: Any favorite Christmas snack

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Do you remember the angel's name?** (Gabriel.) **What was the good news the angel told Mary?** (She would have a baby named Jesus.)
 - **Mary must have been excited about that news. Have you ever had a new baby in your family or known someone who had a new baby?** (Children respond.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

**"Glory
to God**

in the highest."

Luke 2:14a

Hold palms together. Top hand moves upward as fingers make wiggling motion. (God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up. (highest) Held together, pointer and middle fingers point to the side and are raised in front of the body. Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: LUKE 1:28-33

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Mary was a teenager, good and kind.** (Thumbs up, as sign of approval.)
- **One day she saw an angel bright.** (Hand on forehead to shade eyes from bright light.)
- **The angel Gabriel said, "The Lord is with you."** (Motions for "The Lord is with you.")
- **Mary was surprised. She wondered what to do.** (Palms up, looking surprised.)
- **But Gabriel said, "Do not be afraid."** (Index finger wags to express "no.")
- **The Lord sent me to you this day.** (Point to self.)
- **The Lord is very pleased with you.** (Thumbs up, as sign of approval.)
- **He's giving you His Son; here is what to do.** (Point, as if teaching.)
- **Name Him Jesus when He is born.** (Rock baby in arms.)
- **He will be King forever more."** (Hold imaginary crown on head.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Glory to God in the highest!" Luke 2:14a

GAME: GLORY TO GOD!

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Ribbons or strips of cloth or crepe paper, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News"

God sent an angel to the shepherds with good news. Do you know what that good news was? (Baby Jesus was born.) **The angel said, "Glory to God in the highest." Let's say that together, "Glory to God in the highest." Glory is the praise and thanks we give to God. As we sing, let's dance and wave these ribbons as a way to praise God for sending Jesus to us.**

Directions:

1. **Listen for the words, "Glory to God in the highest," and sing along.**
2. Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News."
3. Lead the children in waving the ribbons as they dance about the room. Encourage them to sing along when they hear "Glory to God in the highest!"

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: QUIET TIME

Purpose: To take a moment of silence to think about God's goodness.

Supplies: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News"

Zechariah could not say a word for about 300 days. Since he was not talking, he had plenty of time to think about God and to listen. Let's take a minute to be quiet and hear what the angel said to the shepherds about baby Jesus.

Directions:

1. Invite children to get in a comfortable position either by laying their heads on a table or by resting on the floor.
2. **Listen for the words: "Glory to God in the highest." Glory is the praise and thanks we give to God. Glory to God in the highest means we give our biggest and highest praise and thanks to Him.**
3. **It is good to take time to be quiet and think about God. Let's be quiet and think about God while we listen to our Bible Memory Verse Song.** Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News." Children rest quietly as they listen.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about the birth of Jesus.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 10, Lesson 49: Advent 2: Gabriel and Mary

PONDER! To celebrate the coming of Jesus as a family, light candles on your Advent wreath (a circle of greenery and four candles). This week, gather your family to light two candles. As you light candle number two, Mary's candle, read Luke 1:28-33. Imagine how amazing it would be to hear an angel tell you and your family members, "The Lord is with you."

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for coming near to Mary and letting her be part of Your miracle. Thank You for being with Mary and for being with us now. Amen."

PLAY! Being "highly favored" means God is pleased with you. Gather your family and take turns sharing positive behaviors your family members do that would be pleasing to God. Examples include smiling, helping others, sharing, following directions, and listening well.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Glory to God in the highest." Luke 2:14a	Hold palms together. Top hand moves upward as fingers make wiggling motion. (God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up. (highest) Held together, pointer and middle fingers point to the side and are raised in front of the body. Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.
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