



Teacher's Guide: Ages 4-5
God of Wonders: The Wonder of Advent
Unit 10, Lesson 49

Advent 2: Gabriel and Mary

Lesson Aim: To know the Lord is with us as He was with Mary.

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

Whisper Verse: "The Lord is with you."

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 as He was with Mary.
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."

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of an angel
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "The Lord is with you."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Supplies: Advent wreath (See GOT TIME?)	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" Additional Song Suggestions: "Away in a Manger" "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
		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: Craft sample from Lesson 48, angel ornament or angel tree topper
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Mary Ornament	Angel created in Lesson 48, white felt (or fabric or paper), sturdy white paper, fabric (any color) for Mary's dress (may substitute paper or felt), glue, crayons or markers
		Game: Highly Favored!	None
		Game: The Lord Is with You	None
		Snack: Surprise!	Any favorite Christmas snack
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10, Lesson 49 Color This Story: "Gabriel Visits Mary"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Luke 1:28-33	None
	Up to 10	Craft: Advent Wreath	See GOT TIME?
	Up to 10	Game: Quiet Time	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News"
	Up to 10	Game: Memory Verse Echo	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about the birth of Jesus

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Lord is with you

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm 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." That is today's Whisper Verse!** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "The Lord is with you."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| "The Lord" | With the right hand in the "letter L" shape with the palm facing out, move the hand across the body diagonally from the left shoulder to the right hip, as if making a sash. |
| "(is) with" | With both hands in a fist, with the thumbs on top of the fists as if making the letter A shape, clap fists together in front of the chest. |
| "you." | The index finger of the right hand points forward as the arm moves forward from the body at waist level. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "The Lord is with you," Luke 1:28. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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 the worship illustration. Play “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.

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



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who comes near. He came near when He sent His Son Jesus to live with us. Let's spend time with God today by giving our offering, singing, and praying to Him. These are great ways to thank God for all He has done for us. Let's start by giving our offering. Play: “Give Thanks to the Lord” as background music while collecting the offering.



The Lighting of the Christmas Candles: Mary's Candle

Advent Wreath: 4 candles set in a wreath

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 of the four candles on the Advent wreath. 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 chose to read the storybook, have a child light the second candle now.



In the Bible, God came near to Mary by sending an angel. That's our Whisper Verse for today. Review the Whisper Verse together: “The Lord is with you.” Include sign language. **Later, God sent an angel to the shepherds. Listen to what that angel said to them.** 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 means we give our biggest and highest praise and thanks to God.**

The angel Gabriel promised Mary she would be the mother of baby Jesus. When did that promise come true? (On the first Christmas Day.) Jesus was born in a manger. That is a food box for stable animals. Let's get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas by singing about baby Jesus. Sing: “Away in a Manger” and “His One and Only Son.”



The Lord was with Mary

THE WORD

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

With my eyes on my teacher;
My mouth quiet as can be,
I will listen to hear,
How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.
Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
Cup hand around ear.
Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned God sent the angel Gabriel to Zechariah. Today, we will hear about a different miracle when God sent the angel Gabriel to visit Mary. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 1:31.

WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 1:28-33

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a craft sample from lesson 48, angel ornament, or angle tree topper. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story picture, or any related picture.

- 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? ("The Lord is with you.") Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say our Whisper Verse together: "The Lord is with you." Include sign language or hand motions.



What did the angel tell Mary to name her Son? (Jesus.) Let's check our answer in the Bible. Read Luke 1:31 from the teacher's Bible.



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: Advent Angel craft created in Lesson 48, white felt (or fabric or paper), sturdy white paper, fabric (any color) for Mary's dress (may substitute paper or felt), glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: From white felt, cut a 4-inch triangle. Draw and cut out the shape of Mary from sturdy white paper. Cut out a piece of fabric in the shape of Mary's dress.

Alternate Craft: Instead of adding this ornament to the Advent Angel created in lesson 48, create an individual ornament by punching a hole in the top and threading ribbon through the hole.

Unit 9: You may want to keep extra crafts from lessons 48-51 for children who miss a lesson. You may also want to keep an Advent Angel craft sample for lessons 49-51 to demonstrate how to attach the new crafts to the Advent Angel.

Directions:

1. Use crayons or markers to color Mary.
2. Glue the fabric for Mary's dress onto the Mary cut-out.
3. Glue the Mary cut-out onto the felt triangle.
4. Remind the children to attach the Mary Ornament to their Advent Angels at home using the paper fastener on the far left side of the angel's robe.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who remembers the Whisper Verse?** ("The Lord is with you.") **Let's say it together with the hand motions.**
- **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: HIGHLY FAVORED!

Purpose: Children experience the greeting and positive affirmation that Mary received from Gabriel.

Supplies: None

When the angel Gabriel first came to Mary, he said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Being highly favored means God is very pleased with you. Just like God was pleased with Mary, He is very pleased with each of you.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a line.
2. Teacher shakes the hand of the first child and says the chant below with one positive behavior about the child.

**Greetings, name of child, you who are highly favored!
I like the way you positive behavior.**

3. Repeat until the teacher has shaken hands and said the chant to each child.

Examples of positive behavior: Have a happy smile, sing about God, share toys, remember the Whisper Verse, help others, show bravery, follow directions, try to listen, bring an offering, etc.

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.

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 other 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.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "The Lord is with you."
 - **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.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Mary Ornament" craft. You may attach it to the robe of the angel you made last week or hang it in your home. Tell someone how God sent the angel Gabriel to give Mary the good news about Jesus.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available. **Show this card to your family.** Talk about how Mary must have been very surprised to see an angel bring her such important news.

COLOR THIS STORY: "Gabriel Visits Mary." Discuss the Bible Story and play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Bring You Good News," as children color.



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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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.)

CRAFT: ADVENT WREATH

Purpose: Children work together to create an Advent wreath.

Supplies: Wire or pipe cleaners (brown or green), greenery (ivy strands, pine needles, etc.), four tall purple candles, four candleholders, sturdy paper plate, glue or tape

Teacher Tip: Create one wreath for the classroom or individual wreaths for children to take home. The directions for this wreath suggest four candles. Some wreaths add a fifth candle, "the Christ candle," which is in the center of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Advent means coming. In the four weeks before Christmas, believers use an Advent wreath to celebrate the coming of Jesus our Lord. Each week we light a new candle. The circle shape of our Advent wreath has no beginning and no end reminds us of the promise of a never ending life forever with God.

Directions:

1. Use wire or pipe cleaners to create a wreath shape (circle) and place it on the plate.
2. Attach the greenery to the wreath shape using glue, tape, or additional pipe cleaners.
3. Place the four candleholders evenly along the inner rim of wreath.
4. Place the purple candles in the candleholders.
5. Note: Over time, you may need to replace any browning greenery with fresh greenery.

Flameless Advent Wreaths: (1) Cut candle shapes from sturdy gold or yellow paper. Color the flames red or orange. Attach the candles to the plate with tape. (2) Use battery operated candles.

GOT TIME *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

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

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.

GAME: MEMORY VERSE ECHO

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

Supplies: None

Glory to God in the highest means we give our biggest and highest praise and thanks to God. Let's echo our praises to God.

Directions:

1. Divide your class into three groups.
2. Assign one group to be the loud echo, one the regular echo, and one the whisper echo.
3. Shout the verse and have each group echo your words, the loud group first, then the regular voice group, and then finally the whisper echo.
4. Repeat a few times.
5. If you have time, reassign which group does each kind of echo and play again.

GOT TIME *continued...*



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.

Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Luke 2:14a

"Glory to God in the highest."