



Advent 2: God's Promise to Mary

Lesson Aim: To know Jesus is the Son of 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 that she would give birth to His Son, Jesus.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." Psalm 118:1a

Unit 10: The Promised One			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Isaiah Tells of the Promised Child, Isaiah 9:2-3, 6	God told Isaiah the promise of the coming child.	To know God promised to send His Son to us.
49	Advent 2: God's Promise to Mary, Luke 1:26-38	God promised Mary that she would give birth to His Son, Jesus.	To know Jesus is the Son of God.
50	Advent 3: The Promised Son Is Born, Luke 2:4-7	God fulfilled His promise for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.	To know God keeps His promises.
51	Advent 4: Shepherds See God's Promised Son, Luke 2:8-20	God sent the angels to tell the shepherds about Jesus, the promised Savior.	To praise God as the shepherds did when they saw baby Jesus.
52	Wise Men Knew God's Promise, Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	God sent the Wise Men to Bethlehem where they saw God's promises fulfilled.	To know promises from God are found in the Bible.

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, but not every family includes Santa in their celebration. To honor parents, our role as Bible teachers is not to address (validate or invalidate) their family traditions, but to redirect children's focus to celebrate the reason for Christmas, the gift of God's Son.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of an angel
		Coloring Center: God's Promise to Mary	Coloring pages of Gabriel and Mary, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: You Are Special	Play-dough, Christmas cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Dramatic Play Center: Mother Mary	Baby doll, basket, baby blanket, items for a baby's care
		Nativity Center: Jesus Is the Son of God	Nativity set
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Away in the Manger" "Silent Night" "Joy to the World" Additional Supplies: Advent wreath (See GOT TIME?)	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Give Thanks to the Lord" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "His One and Only Son" "The Lord Is Faithful" "I Am with You" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "I Bring You Good News" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 49
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Luke 1:26-38	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 1:31 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, baby doll wrapped in a blanket
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Angel Gabriel	Small paper cup (uncoated), craft stick, sturdy white paper, nativity person template (available on resourcewell.org), white doily, label, glue, crayons
		Game: Deliver the Message	Picture of Mary
		Game: Jesus Is God's Son	None
		Snack: Angel Cake	Angel food cake (or similar white fluffy snack)
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10, Lesson 49
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Luke 1:26-38	None
	Up to 15	Craft: Advent Crown Wreath	See craft.
	Up to 10	Game: Pass the Gift	Wrapped gift box (with lid), baby Jesus doll, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"
	Up to 10	Game: Give Thanks Bubbles	Bubbles, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about events surrounding Jesus' birth

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The God of Peace

THE WELCOME

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 stamp or sticker of an angel. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of an angel help you remember the angel promised Mary that she would have a baby named Jesus and He would be the Son of God.**

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: GOD'S PROMISE TO MARY

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Gabriel and Mary, crayons

DO

Children color the picture while talking about God's promise to Mary.

TALK ABOUT

God sent the angel Gabriel with a special promise for Mary. He promised His Son Jesus would be born to Mary. Do you know if God kept that promise? (Yes, He did.) When do we celebrate Jesus' birth? (Christmas.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: YOU ARE SPECIAL

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, Christmas cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about Gabriel's message to Mary. Encourage children to make angels with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

In today's story, the angel Gabriel brings a special message to Mary from God. Can you make an angel with the play dough?

God had chosen Mary for a something special. Do you know what it was? (Mary would be Jesus' mother.) Just like Mary, God has chosen you for something special. You are special and God loves you very much.

If you have cookie cutters that are related to the Christmas story, ask the children how each cookie cutter fits into the story.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: MOTHER MARY

SUPPLIES

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

DO

Children play in the center while taking care of the baby.

TALK ABOUT

Soon, we will celebrate Christmas. Whose birthday do we celebrate on Christmas day? (Jesus.)
Mary was Jesus' mother. Let's take care of our baby like Mary would have taken care of baby Jesus. What do babies need? (Food, bottle, sleep, love, etc.)

NATIVITY CENTER: JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

SUPPLIES

Nativity set

DO

Place the stable on a table. Hide the other pieces of the nativity set around the room. On your signal, have the children find the pieces and return them to the stable. When all the pieces have been returned, do the "Talk About" below.

TALK ABOUT

Whose birthday do we celebrate on Christmas day? (Jesus.) **Whose son is Jesus?** (God's Son.) Ask the children to tell you each figure is in the nativity set. Encourage them to tell you the story of Jesus' birth.

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)

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good." Psalm 118:1a	(thanks) Move open hands up and away, flicking fingers twice. (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash. (good) Palms up, move one hand from mouth to lay on top of other palm. Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.
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Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The God of Peace

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

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.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God of Peace. That means we can trust God when something scares or worries us. Let's pray. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas, help us to remember You give us peace. Amen.**



Let's thank God for giving us His Son Jesus as we give our offering. Sing the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord" while collecting the offering.



Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together and thank God for being so good to us. Let's practice it together. Practice a few times with the motions.

"Give thanks to the Lord	(thanks) Move open hands up and away, flicking fingers twice.
	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
for He is good."	(good) Palms up, move one hand from mouth to lay on top of other palm.
Psalm 118:1a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



The Lighting of the Christmas Candles: The Angel Candle

Advent Wreath: 4 candles set in a wreath

We light the Christmas candles to get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Today, we light the Angel Candle to remember God sent the angel Gabriel with His promise for Mary. Light the first two candles on the Advent Wreath.



Mary was afraid when the angel Gabriel appeared, but he said, "Do not be afraid, Mary. The Lord is with you." God promised to be with Mary and He has promised to be with you, too. Sing: "I Am with You."



Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello know about the day the angel Gabriel visited Mary. Perform The Adventures of Delbert and Lello puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 49.



God promised His Son Jesus would be born to Mary. Do you know if God kept that promise? (Yes, He did.) Let's sing about the day Jesus was born, the day when God's promise to Mary came true! Sing: "I Bring You Good News," "Away in a Manger," or a favorite traditional Christmas hymn.



A promise for 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 in your lap. **Last time, we talked about a very special baby. Do you remember who that baby was?** (Jesus.) **God told a man named Isaiah that He promised to send baby Jesus to the world.**

Do you remember what a promise is? (Children respond.) **A promise is something we tell someone we will do. Who always keeps His promises?** (God.)

In today's story, we will hear God's promise to a young woman named Mary. Do you know who Mary was? (Jesus' mother.) **That's right! Let's listen to Mary's story.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 1:31.



WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 1:26-38

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.

- **The angel Gabriel came to Mary,**
- **And said, "Do not be afraid,**
- **For the Lord is pleased with you!**
- **Here is the promise He made:**

- **"You will have a baby boy.**
- **Name Him Jesus when He is born.**
- **Jesus is the Son of God;**
- **He will be King forevermore!"**

Who was the special baby in our story today? (Jesus.) **Jesus is God's Son and He is King of everything!**



Jesus is the Son of God

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: ANGEL GABRIEL

Purpose: To remind the children of God's promise to Mary that she would give birth to His Son Jesus.

Supplies: Small paper cup (uncoated), craft stick, sturdy white paper, nativity person template (available on resourcewell.org), white doily, label, glue, crayons

Prepare: On sturdy white paper, print and cut out one person for each child from the nativity person template. The same template can be used for lessons 49-52. You may choose to use half of a doily for the angel halo or wings. Cut a slit in the bottom of the cup large enough for the craft stick to fit through it. On a label, print:

**The Angel Gabriel Appeared to Mary
Luke 1:26-38**

Optional: Decorate the angel with silver, gold, or white glitter.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5. A simplified template has been provided for ages 2-3. Another option would be to find a printable nativity template online for children to color.

Lessons 48-52 Craft: This craft is the second in a set of five crafts appearing in Lessons 48-52. Together, they will create a Nativity scene for each child. Remind the children to keep their crafts in a special place. In the coming weeks, they will add other people from Christmas story.

Teacher Tip: According to the Bible, the angel Gabriel is male. He appeared to Daniel in the form of a man and hundreds of years later to Mary in the form of a male angel. Knowing Gabriel's gender may help the children as they create this craft.

Directions:

1. Children color the angel, including giving the angel hair. (See Teacher Tip #2 above.)
2. Glue the angel's back to the center of the doily for a halo of light or wings.
3. Optional: Decorate the angel with silver, gold, or white glitter.
4. Glue the angel figure to the top half of the craft stick.
5. Attach the label on the upside-down cup.
6. Insert the craft stick in the slit so the Angel Gabriel stands up.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who sent the angel?** (God.)
- **What was his name?** (Gabriel.)
- **Who did the angel visit?** (Mary.)
- **The angel Gabriel promised Mary she would have a special baby. What was the baby's name?** (Jesus.) **What is God's Son's name?** (Jesus.)
- **Jesus is very special. God promised He would be King of everything forever.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: DELIVER THE MESSAGE

Purpose: Children will play a version of "Red Light, Green Light" to help them remember Gabriel delivered God's promise of Jesus' birth to Mary.

Supplies: Picture of Mary

Teacher Tip: Encourage children to use their imaginations as to how they think an angel moves.

God gave a promise to Mary. He promised she would be the mother of baby Jesus, the Son of God. Pretend you are the angel Gabriel. When you see Mary, stop and tell her about God's promise.

Directions:

1. Children line up, shoulder-to-shoulder, along one side of the play area.
2. Stand on the opposite end of the play area, holding the picture of Mary in front of you so the children can't see the picture.
3. On your signal, the children pretend to be the angel Gabriel and move toward the teacher.
 - When you raise the picture so the children can see Mary, the children must all stop and say, **"Jesus is the Son of God."**
 - When you lower the picture, the children may move forward again.
4. Repeat step 3 until all the children reach you.
5. Play as often as you like.

GAME: JESUS IS GOD'S SON

Purpose: Children will understand Jesus is the Son of God.

Supplies: None

In Jesus' family, God was His true Father who lived in heaven. Gabriel brought good news to Mary. Her baby would be Jesus. Jesus is God's Son.

Directions:

1. Make a bridge with a helper or child by holding hands and raising your arms as high as you can.
2. Children walk in a circle, passing under your "bridge." While the children are walking, sing the words below to the tune of "London Bridge."

**We bring good news of great joy, of great joy, of great joy
We bring good news of great joy. Jesus is God's Son.**
3. Each time you sing, "Jesus is God's Son," lower your arms to catch the child who is walking under your bridge.
4. Ask the child who is caught, **"What is the good news?"**
5. The child responds, **"Jesus is God's Son!"**
6. Play as often as you like or until each child has a turn sharing the good news.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: ANGEL CAKE

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while considering that God's promised Son was a special baby.

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

Let's eat some angel food cake. How does this fluffy white cake remind you of an angel? (Children respond.)

Directions:

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
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. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who gave God's promise to Mary?** (The angel Gabriel.) **God promised Mary would give birth to His Son Jesus.**
 - **Jesus was a very special baby because He is God's Son.**
 - **What do parents do to take care of babies?** (Feed, hold, rock, change diapers, etc.) **Soon, Mary would hold baby Jesus and take care of Him.**



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.

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good." Psalm 118:1a	(thanks) Move open hands up and away, flicking fingers twice. (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash. (good) Palms up, move one hand from mouth to lay on top of other palm. Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.
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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 1:26-38

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.

- **The angel Gabriel came to Mary,** (Point to heaven.)
- **And said, “Do not be afraid,** (Shake head no.)
- **For the Lord is pleased with you!** (Thumbs up.)
- **Here is the promise He made:** (Cup hand around ear.)

- **“You will have a baby boy.** (Pretend to hold a baby.)
- **Name Him Jesus when He is born.** (Point to baby in your arms.)
- **Jesus is the Son of God;** (Point to heaven.)
- **He’ll be King forevermore!”** (Pretend to place crown on head.)

CRAFT: ADVENT CROWN WREATH

Purpose: Children work together to create an Advent crown wreath.

Supplies: Poster board or sturdy paper, craft decorations, gold paint (or gold foil, gold wrapping paper, etc.), four tall gold candles, four candleholders, one gold dinner plate or plate wrapped in gold foil or paper, stapler, glue

Prepare: Cut a 3-inch x 24-inch strip of poster board. Paint the poster board strip gold. Let it dry. Staple the ends to create a circle (crown) shape.

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 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 Advent wreath is in round; it has no beginning and no end. This reminds us of the promise of a never ending life forever with God. Each week we light a new candle to remind us of part of the Christmas story.

Directions:

1. Decorate the circle with craft decorations.
2. Place the crown on a gold dinner plate or plate wrapped in gold foil or paper.
3. Place the four gold candles in holders evenly along the inner rim of crown.

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

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." Psalm 118:1a

GAME: PASS THE GIFT

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

Supplies: Wrapped gift box (with removable lid), baby Jesus doll, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"

Prepare: Place baby Jesus inside the box and close the box lid.

God gives you lots of gifts. One of the things He gives you is people who love you very much. When someone gives something to you, what should you do? (Thank them.) Our Bible Memory Verse tells us we should thank God for the gifts and the people He has given us. It says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good."

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle. Give the gift box to one of the children.
2. **What is one thing you thank God for?** (Child responds.)
3. Lead all the children in saying, **"Thank you, God!"**
4. Children pass the gift around the circle. While each child holds the gift, repeat steps 2-3.
5. **Let's see the biggest gift God has given to us.**
6. Choose one child to open the box and discover baby Jesus inside.
7. Sing the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song together as a celebration of thanks to God.

GAME: GIVE THANKS BUBBLES

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

Supplies: Bubbles, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"

Our Bible Memory Verse tells us God is good. He is always good to you and me! Together, let's say, "God is good." Lead the children in saying, "God is good." Now, let's listen to our Bible Memory Verse Song as we have fun with these bubbles. When you catch or pop a bubble, I want you to shout "God is good!"

Directions:

1. Children stand in the play area.
2. While the Bible Memory Verse Song is playing, blow bubbles for the children to catch.
3. Encourage the children to shout **"God is good!"** each time they catch or pop a bubble.

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 events surrounding Jesus' birth.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 10, Lesson 49: Advent 2: God's Promise to Mary

PONDER! To celebrate the coming of Jesus, create a family Advent Wreath using a circle of greenery and four candles to stand for the four Sundays before Christmas. Light the second candle as the Angel Candle and read Luke 1:26-38. Talk about God's promise to Mary. Who delivered God's promise to her?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for promising to send Your Son Jesus. We are so happy we can celebrate Jesus' birth this Christmas! Amen."

PLAY! God gave Jesus a family. He gave you a family, too. Your family is special to God. Draw a picture of each family member. Collect the pictures into a "family picture album." Share stories about the people in the pictures.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good." Psalm 118:1a	(thanks) Move open hands up and away, flicking fingers twice. (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash. (good) Palms up, move one hand from mouth to lay on top of other palm. Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.
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