



Advent 1: Announcing the King

Lesson Aim: To trust God's plan for your life.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The King Who Came to Us

THE WORD

What He Has Done: God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary to announce the coming of Jesus as King.

Scripture Focus: Luke 1:26-38 **Key Verse:** Luke 1:32-33

Christ Connection: Isaiah 9:6-7

THE WAY

The Big Question: What is most difficult about trusting God's plan for your life?

UNIT 10 FOCUS VERSE

"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.
 The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over
 Jacob's descendants forever; His kingdom will never end." Luke 1:32-33

Unit 10: The King Who Came to Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim*
48	Advent 1: Announcing the King, Luke 1:26-38	God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary to announce the coming of Jesus as King.	To trust God's plan for your life.
49	Advent 2: Naming the King, Matthew 1:17-23	God brought Jesus into the world through Abraham's descendants.	To know Jesus came to save His people from their sins.
50	Advent 3: Birthplace of the King, Luke 2:1-7; Philippians 2:1-11	God chose Bethlehem as the birthplace of King Jesus.	To develop the humble attitude of Christ.
51	Advent 4: Worshiping the King, Luke 2:8-20	God led the shepherds to see and worship King Jesus.	To understand worship as a lifestyle.
52	Recognizing the King: The Magi and Herod, Matthew 2:1-3, 7-15	God led the Magi to Jesus.	To recognize God's presence and leading.

LEADER'S ENCOURAGEMENT This week, read Isaiah 9:6-7. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for sending us the King of kings. Help us share that good news with the students so they might share it with others. Amen."

Lesson Aims are based on reflecting God's character as we participate in His actions to, for, and in the world.

Take Home Elements: The Journal Entry, Action Card, and Family Discussion Card may be sent home to encourage students to reflect on the lesson. The Journal Entry is an in-depth personal study. The Action Card is a visual reminder of the Bible story, God's action, and how we can join into that action. The Family Discussion Card gives parents and guardians a way to engage their students in what they are learning.

Leader's Tip: For larger gatherings, teach THE WELCOME, THE WORSHIP, and THE WORD in a large group setting and divide into small groups for discussion with THE WAY.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

Suggestion: Choose a game that focuses on ideas such as angels, announcements, messengers, or sharing a message.

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: WHISPER CHALLENGE

Purpose: To introduce discussion about sharing messages.

Supplies: Headphones, music, note cards, basket

Preparation: Write the names of several Christmas songs on note cards. You may choose from those below or make your own.

"All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth"

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

"Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas"

"I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day"

"I Want A Hippopotamus For Christmas"

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

"It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas"

"Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow"

"Let There Be Peace On Earth"

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

"The Twelve Days of Christmas"

"There's No Place Like Home For The Holidays"

"We Three Kings Of Orient Are"

"We Wish You A Merry Christmas"

"While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks"

Directions:

1. Divide the group into two teams.
2. The first team chooses two members to play. One person is the listener and one is the speaker.
3. The listener wears the headphones with music playing loudly so they can't hear the speaker.
4. The speaker draws a notecard from the basket and reads it while the listener tries to lip-read what he/she is saying. The listener can ask the speaker to repeat the title twice.
5. If the listener gets the song name correct, that team gets 1 point.
6. The second team repeats steps 2-5. Give each team an equal number of turns.
7. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins.

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: CHRISTMAS TELEPHONE GAME

Purpose: To introduce discussion about sharing messages.

Supplies: Choose a few messages to use for this game. You may choose from the messages below or make your own.

Toy trains travel and toot along the track.

Chilly children cheer and chant on chilly nights.

Shiny stars sparkle on silver sleighs.

Tiny Tim trims the tallest tree with tons of terrific tinsel.

Crazy kids clamor for candy canes and Christmas cookies.

Ten tiny toy soldiers tinker with twenty toy trains.

Directions:

1. Students sit in a circle.
2. The leader begins by whispering a message to the person to their left.
3. That person then whispers what they think they heard to the person on their left.
4. Continue around the circle until the message is whispered to the last person. That person announces the message to the group.
5. Although the goal of the game is to pass the original message, part of the fun is how the message almost always gets changed along the way.



The King who comes to us

THE WORSHIP

Advent Wreath: An Advent wreath is recommended for the four weeks of Advent. You may choose to include a center Christ candle.

Note to Leader: The instructions below are suggestions only. Adapt this time of worship to suit your environment, resources, and cultural expression. Encourage students to broaden their view of corporate worship by including a variety of expressions such as group prayer, group praise, silent meditation, singing, listening to music, reading scripture, collecting an offering, drama, dance, visual arts, and/or a physical exploration of nature or neighborhoods.

Ideas for Optional Visuals: _____

Today, we worship the King who came to us. He sent an angel to Mary with the message that King Jesus would come soon and she would be His mother. He knew we couldn't get to heaven on our own, so He came to us.

The word 'advent' means coming. The Advent season helps us get our hearts ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus.

Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony: Mary's Candle

One way we can celebrate Advent is by lighting the candles on an Advent wreath. Our Advent wreath is round; it has no end, just as God's love for us has no end. (Optional: It is decorated with gold to remind us that Jesus is the King of kings.) **Each of the four candles on the Advent wreath stands for one of the four Sundays before Christmas.** (Optional: Our Advent wreath includes a center candle, the Christ candle which is lit Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.)

Let's light the first candle of Advent: Mary's Candle. Mary was a young teenager who loved God very much. God sent the angel Gabriel to bring Mary a special message about the coming of King Jesus. Choose a student to light the first candle now.

Read Unit 10 Focus Verse: Luke 1:32-33.



Sing worship songs that focus on Jesus as the King Who comes to us.



Read Luke 1:30-31.



Invite students to offer sentences of praise to God by completing the following sentence:
"Lord, we worship You for _____."



Gabriel appears to Mary

THE WORD Presentation

Note to Leader: Adapt this segment to your setting (Sunday School class, youth group, multi-age gathering, youth camp, retreat, etc.). In some settings, you may choose to have a student read the scripture aloud, and then have the leader, in his or her own words, briefly communicate the Teaching Points, the Christ Connection, and the Big Question. In other settings, a teacher, pastor, or other experienced speaker may present a lecture or extended message that includes those same elements.

Ideas for Optional Visuals:

You may choose to include an object lesson, video clip, drama, dance, song, or work of art to illustrate the teaching points.

Option 1: _____

Option 2: _____



TEACHING POINTS

Consider current culture and influences impacting your students, and adjust the teaching accordingly.

Read the suggested scripture and communicate each of the points noted.

Last time, we learned God used a young woman named Esther to save His people in Persia. 400 years later, God sent His Son, King Jesus, to save the world.

When the time was right, God sent an angel named Gabriel with a message about this king for a young teenage girl in the small town of Nazareth. God would use Mary in saving the world from sin.

The leader or a student reads Luke 1:26-33.

- God sent the angel Gabriel with a message for Mary about how He would use her to build His kingdom. Mary would have been familiar with the prophecies concerning the promised King and His kingdom, so she would have understood the meaning of Gabriel's message.
- God doesn't always send angels with His messages. He speaks to us through His Word, the Bible; through prayer, through other people, and through His creation.
- God still chooses people to do important jobs for His kingdom, just like He chose Mary. Reading the Bible is one of the ways we can prepare for what He has for us.

The leader or a student reads Luke 1:34-37.

- Gabriel's message was hard for Mary to believe because she had never seen something like this happen in history, and logically, it was totally impossible. As confirmation, Gabriel gave her another example of God performing the impossible: Elizabeth's pregnancy.
- Gabriel's final words to Mary, "Nothing will be impossible with God (ESV)" or "No word from God will ever fail (NIV)" is a truth we must all remember, no matter our circumstances.

THE WORD Presentation *continued*

The leader or a student reads Luke 1:38.

- This news from Gabriel would change Mary's life forever. She was betrothed (a legally binding arrangement in the Jewish culture) to Joseph. If he thought she had been with another man, he could divorce her. Not only that but she faced the punishment for adultery—stoning.
- Mary's response showed she had true faith in God. She believed He would keep His promises even when it seemed impossible.
- Mary saw herself as a servant of the Lord, so she willingly accepted His plan for her.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

In the whole story of God, what's the connection between this New Testament story and the Old Testament?

- During the time when judges and kings ruled over Israel, God's people hoped for a perfect king. Prophets spoke of the coming king centuries before He was born. 700 years before Gabriel announced Jesus' birth to Mary, the prophet Isaiah announced His coming.

The leader or a student reads aloud Isaiah 9:6-7.

- Based on the Lord's promise from Isaiah, the people of Israel expected their king to be a descendant of King David and a powerful military ruler. They believed this Messiah (the chosen or "anointed one" as the word means in Hebrew) would deliver them from their Roman oppressors and be their earthly king.
- But, that wasn't God's plan. The reign of the king promised in Isaiah 9 would be different than any of the other kings of Judah or Israel. This king would establish a kingdom of justice, righteousness, power, and peace, with a reign that would last forever.



THE BIG QUESTION

Introduce and elaborate on this question. Students will answer it in their discussion group.

What is most difficult about trusting God's plan for your life?



THE WAY Discussion



GETTING STARTED Display and review the Discussion Group Covenant below:

**We will include everyone here, treating one another with respect and kindness.
We will encourage everyone here to express their thoughts and opposing views.**

Every student shares his or her best experience or greatest challenge of the past week.



READ IT AGAIN

Read Luke 1:26-38 and Isaiah 9:6-7 silently or aloud.

What was the first thing Gabriel said to Mary?

What did Gabriel tell Mary about the baby she was going to have?

How did Gabriel answer Mary's question about how this would happen to her?



THE BIG QUESTION Invite students to share their answers.

What is most difficult about trusting God's plan for your life?



TAKE ACTION Lead students in a discussion using the questions below.

What seems like an impossible event in your life?

How would seeing yourself as a servant of the Lord help you to accept His plan for your life?

How does studying the Bible help us to trust God's plan?

Ask each student to complete this sentence: **God calls us to believe His Word SO THAT others might _____.**



PRAY Share prayer requests and answered prayers.

Have students pray with partners, or have the whole group pray together.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

Give each student Action Card #48 and Journal Entry #48. **Take home today's Action Card as a reminder of how we can join in what God is doing. Use the Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Complete your Journal Entries at home and keep them together in a notebook or in your Bible.** Optional: Provide parent or guardian with Family Discussion Card #48.

KINGS & KINGDOMS

JOURNAL ENTRY #48

Advent 1: Announcing the King Luke 1:26-38

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

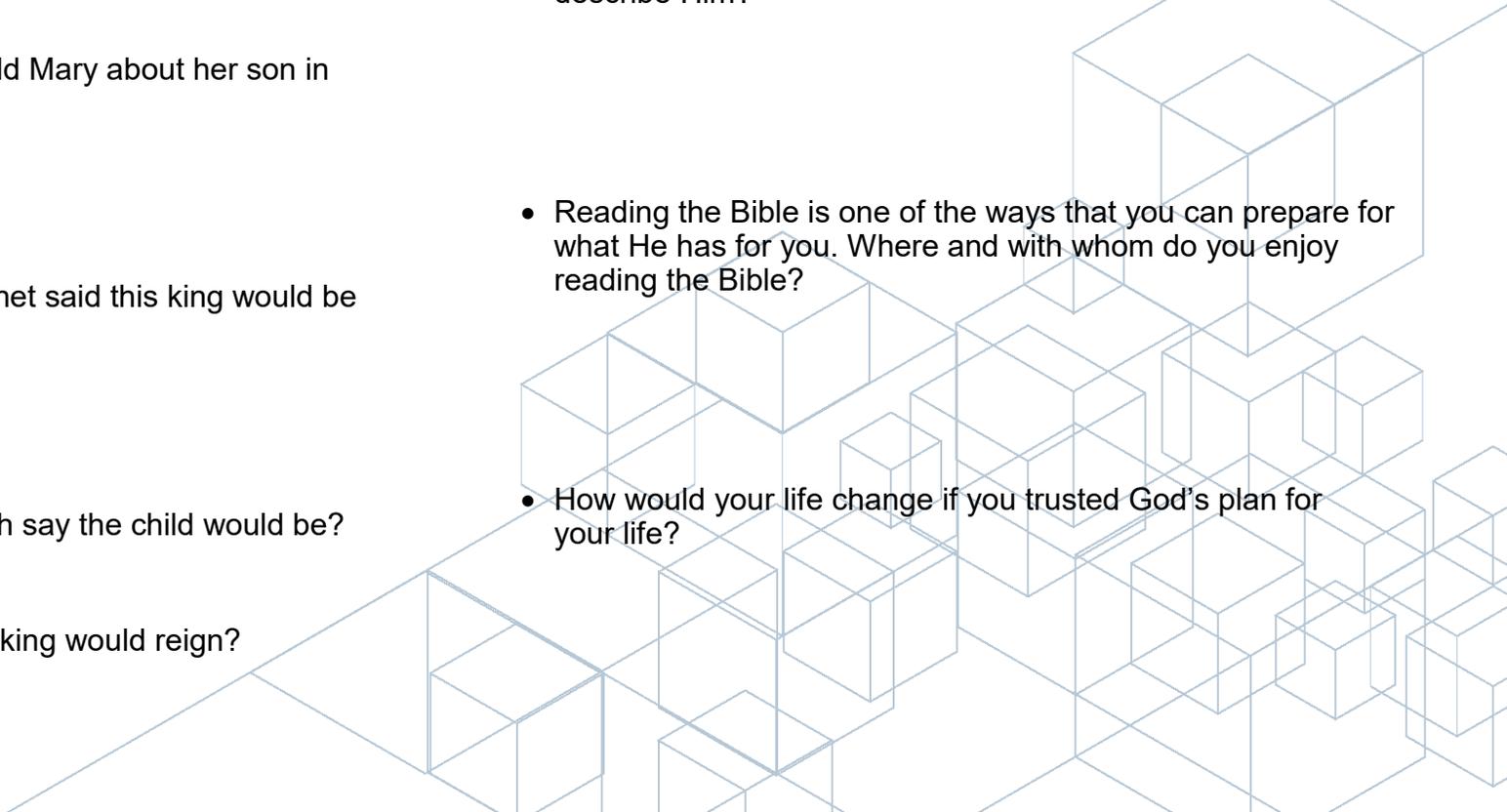
- **Pray!!!** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage.
- **Read Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:28-38.**
- List three things the angel told Mary about her son in Luke 1:32-33.
- List the four names the prophet said this king would be called in Isaiah 9:6-7.
- Whose descendant did Isaiah say the child would be?
- How long did Isaiah say this king would reign?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- How were the words of Isaiah 9:6-7 fulfilled in Luke 1:32-33?
- What did Mary say that showed she trusted God's plan for her?

WHAT CAN I DO?

- When you tell your friends about Jesus, how do you describe Him?
- Reading the Bible is one of the ways that you can prepare for what He has for you. Where and with whom do you enjoy reading the Bible?
- How would your life change if you trusted God's plan for your life?



Action Card #48/K&K

ADVENT 1: ANNOUNCING THE KING

ISAIAH 9:6-7; LUKE 1:26-38

MARY TRUSTED GOD'S PLAN FOR HER LIFE.

WE ARE CALLED TO **TRUST GOD'S PLAN**
FOR OUR LIVES.

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SURPRISING IN YOUR LIFE?

WHEN HAS GOD DONE SOMETHING
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