

Gabriel Visits Mary

After completing this Sunday school lesson, children will learn that God has great things in store for all of us as we live lives that are pleasing to Him.

TOPICS

Angels, Birth of Jesus, Christmas, Mary, Pleasing God

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Give an index card and pencil to each child as they arrive. Ask them to write down at least four things about themselves that make them likeable. When everyone has at least four things, collect all the cards. Then read them one by one to the class and have the kids try to guess who it is. After everyone has guessed, let the owner of the card speak up. How many did each child guess correctly?

This activity will prepare the kids to think about characteristics that are pleasing to God. They will also use this information as a reference during the scripture reading discussion questions.

MEMORY WORK (12 minutes)

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3:12 NIV

Missing Vowels (Memory Verse Puzzle) [page 4](#)

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Introduction:

Many years ago in Galilee, in a town called Nazareth, there lived a young woman named Mary. She was about to be married. During those days, it was customary for girls to be promised to be given away as young brides as soon as they reached puberty, which is about twelve years old. This custom was called betrothal, or engagement. The girl's parents had a lot to do with these decisions, not like today where the man and woman decide if they want to get married. A betrothal is not a practice in our culture today, but that was not the only unusual thing about Mary's engagement. She also had a strange visitor just before she was married. This visitor gave her news that was not only surprising, but it turned out to be Good News for all ages to come. Our story today is found in Luke 1:26-38.

Read Luke 1:26-38 (Jesus' Birth Foretold)

Have the kids find this story in their Bibles. Ask for volunteers to read the passage, or if you prefer you can read it to the children.

Discussion Questions:

1. Does anyone know the significance of Gabriel's visit being on the 6th month? (*Refer to Luke 1:5-25 for background information. Gabriel also visited Zechariah before the birth of John the Baptist, who was to be a prophet of the most high, and a forerunner of Jesus. Zechariah's wife was named Elizabeth, who was also Mary's cousin. John needed to be born before Jesus so he could tell the people to get prepared for the arrival of Jesus. The angel visited Mary about six months after John the Baptist was conceived.*)
2. How did Mary react when Gabriel greeted her? (*She was troubled at the greeting.*)
3. After telling Mary not to be afraid, what was the Good News that Mary received? (*She will give birth to a son named Jesus. He would be great, and called the Son of the Most High.*)
4. Why was Mary chosen to be the mother of Jesus? (*She found favor with God. See Luke 1:28.*)
5. God was pleased when Mary surrendered to His Will and became obedient to Him. What other characteristics do you think Mary may have had that were pleasing to God? (*The kids may want to refer to the list they created when they arrived.*)
6. How about you? In what ways can you be pleasing to God, your parents, or your friends? Will others see you as a good person with these characteristics? (*Allow for discussion.*)

CLASS EXERCISE (15 minutes)

Knock-Knock (Game) [page 3](#)

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APPLICATION (2 minutes)

There are many words in the English language that mean "pleasing to God". Virtue, goodness, holiness, righteousness, honor, uprightness, integrity, and morality are a few. When these characteristics are missing, the person is not complete. Just like a memory verse with missing vowels. But a person who is pleasing to God and pleasing to others can be used in a mighty way. That's how God used Mary above all the other virgins to be the mother of His only Son. How wonderful! Who knows what great things are in store for all of us as we live lives that are pleasing to God.

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KNOCK-KNOCK

A child selected to be king will judge the abilities of the other kids to describe a situation that is pleasing to God. If accepted by the king, they can enter his pretend kingdom.

TOPICS:

Godliness, Pleasing God, Values, Walking with God

MATERIALS:

Index cards, Basket or Shoe box
Chair for a throne, Crown (optional)

DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes



WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Write the following words on index cards, one word on each card, and place the cards in a shoe box or basket. repeat the words as needed to have enough cards for each child.

KINDNESS
GENTLENESS

FRIENDLY
PATIENCE

COMPASSION
FORGIVENESS

Select one child to be king (or queen). Have the king sit on a chair (throne) at one end of the room, and have the remaining kids draw one card from the basket. Then have them line up in front of the king. The object is for children to come up with a situation that describes the word on their card. For example, if they picked the card **KINDNESS**, the child may say something like, "My little brother wanted to play with my toys, so I let him. This is Kindness." The king (or queen) will decide if the situation truly described the word kindness. If so, will let the child enter the pretend kingdom.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

(After selecting the king and lining up the children with their cards) The King is a very wise king and wants to be sure you know what is pleasing to God before he or she lets you enter his or her kingdom. That is why the King gave each of you a word. You must show the king you know the meaning of the word by giving an example of something you can do that matches it. For example, if your word is **CARING**, you could say "My grandma is sick, so I helped her by cleaning her house." If the King agrees that your example describes caring, he or she will let you enter the kingdom. Otherwise, you pick another word from the basket and go to the end of the line to try again.

The play starts by saying, "Knock-Knock." The King will ask, "What's your word?" You say what word you have, then give your example. If the King accepts your example, he or she will say, "Please enter my kingdom." If not accepted, he or she will say, "Sorry, be away with you."

Note: The make believe kingdom in this game may resemble heaven, but it is not heaven. There is no way to get to heaven on our own, not by what we know or what we do. That's because heaven is a free gift. Only by receiving Jesus in our heart do we receive this wonderful gift. However, as children it is important to know what behaviors are Godly and what behaviors are a result of a sinful nature. By knowing the difference, we can begin to recognize there is a lot of sin in our life. When we admit we are sinners, we begin to understand the need for God's grace and forgiveness.

Memory Verse Puzzle

Print enough copies of this page to give each child a Memory Verse Puzzle. To make it easier for younger children, you can fill in some of the vowels yourself before class.

Missing Vowels

The words to today's memory verse are shown below, but the vowels are missing.

Fill in the missing vowels to complete the memory verse.

Th_r_f_r_, _s G_d's ch_s_n p__pl_, h_ly _nd d__rly l_v_d,
cl_th_y__rs_lv_s w_th c_mp_ss__n, k_ndn_ss, h_m_l_ty,
g_ntl_n_ss _nd p_t__nc_. C_l_ss__ns 3:12

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