



# MARY

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

■ New Apostolic Church USA



### CURIOSITY

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: *Have you ever waited for something for a long time? What was it like to wait?*
- Interactive Game: Where's the King?
- Declaring God's Wonder

### BELIEF *Choose either Hear It or Experience It and supplement with the video*

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Opening Prayer
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth

### FAITH

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

### IDENTITY

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Glory to God!
- Blessing Your Kids

## MARY LESSON 3

NAC USA  
Goals and Objectives  
[IA 3-6, 8-10, 13-16, 18-20, 19, 23-26, 28-30, 29](#)  
[IB 1, 3, 5 IC 1-13 ID 2, 4, 6 IE 1-3 IIIA 1-3](#)

**WONDER TRUTH:**  
Jesus Is the Promised King

**SCRIPTURE:**  
[Luke 1](#)

**GOD'S BIG STORY:**  
God's people have waited for the promised King. At long last, an angel tells a young woman named Mary that she will be mother to the coming King Jesus.

**WORD OF WONDER:**  
[Isaiah 9:6](#)

*For a child is born to us, a Son is given to us. The government will rest on His shoulders. And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

# FOR LEADERS

## A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

*We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father...*

Dear Sunday School Teachers,

Every time we hear the Christmas story, there's a chance to discover something new, something we've never noticed before. Sometimes we get so used to the story that we don't see its wonder—but God invites us to look at it with fresh eyes.

Read [Luke 1:26–38](#) and pause in the middle and allow God to broaden your understanding of who Jesus really is. Pray that God will continue to inspire wonder in you about our amazing Lord and King. Share your renewed wonder and understanding with others.

That same wonder can come to us in so many ways. It could come through a song, a story, or even a service project. Or it could happen as we read the Christmas story with children. The angel Gabriel told Mary that Jesus is the promised King, whose kingdom will never end. Have you ever wondered if you really believe that?

As you teach, help children discover the wonder of the Christmas story as if they're hearing it for the first time. Ask them to look for something new, something that makes them say, "Wow!" Jesus really is the King, and His kingdom is coming. Let's not miss out on that truth—Christmas changes everything!

With love and joy,

**The Faith Arc Team**

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## A ROAD MAP

### WHO?

Mary was a young woman from the town of Nazareth who gave birth to Jesus. She was a virgin engaged to be married to Joseph, a descendant of David. It is possible Mary was also descended from David.



### WHAT?

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her she would become pregnant with a baby and to name Him Jesus. Jesus would be called the Son of God and become a king like David, ruling over God's people forever in a kingdom without end.



### WHERE?

The angel appeared to Mary in the town of Nazareth in the region of Galilee, which was north of Judea. Nazareth is just over 15 miles west of the Sea of Galilee. Mary traveled south to visit her relative Elizabeth in the hill country of Judea.



### WHEN?

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary when her relative Elizabeth was six months pregnant. When the angel foretold the birth of John, King Herod's reign was nearing its end. King Herod ruled over Judea until 4 BC.



### CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God promised that a descendant of David would rule forever, and Daniel had a vision of one like a son of man ruling a kingdom without end ([Daniel 7:13-14](#)). These expectations are fulfilled in Jesus, born the rightful King over all creation.



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### WELCOME QUESTION

**SUPPLIES:** paper, colored pencils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Before kids arrive, display the [Mary Welcome Question Slide](#) or write the following question on a whiteboard: "Have you ever waited for something for a long time? What was it like to wait?" Set out sheets of paper and coloring utensils.

As kids arrive, warmly welcome them by name and ask them to Check In.

#### All Ages

Always begin your class with a warm welcome and a social-emotional "check-in". Use the feelings chart and ask each child how they are feeling (refrain from asking "How are you?" as children may be accustomed to responding with "fine"). You may want to print and post the feelings chart in your classroom for ease of use.

- Allow each child to name their feeling or to use a color to name their feeling. Older children might use words, younger children might point to the pictures or use the colors to express their feelings.
- There are no wrong feelings and all feelings should be acknowledged.
- Acknowledge how children feel by giving each child time and space to share anything they might need or want to share in regard to their feelings. For example, you can ask "Why are you angry?" or "What made you sad?"
- If you can, address the feeling (hunger/thirst - provide a snack/drink, sadness - give a hug, joy - give a high five, tired - let the child rest, anger – a calming space, etc.).
- Keep in mind throughout the lesson how each child is feeling and that feelings may change during your time with the child.
- If you notice a change, you may want to allow the child to rename their feeling and again address the feeling if needed.
- Acknowledge all feelings, concerns, joys, and celebrations in your opening and closing prayer. Use a grace-based approach to the learning as feelings will impact how children learn. (adapted from the Zones of Regulation)

Show them the [Welcome Question](#). Encourage them to find 2–3 kids to share their answers with. Kids who like to draw can illustrate their answers before sharing them. Feel free to share your own answers too! If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them.

#### At your start time...

Greet each kid by name, giving each a high five. Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: ***Have you ever waited for something for a long time? What was it like to wait?***

**In God's big story, His people waited a very, very long time for the promised King to arrive. Today we're going to see how a young woman named Mary heard the exciting news that the wait was over. But, first, it's time to be curious.**

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# SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL CHECK IN

Angry



Scared



Panicked



Inconsolable



Happy



Focused



Calm



Proud



Worried



Frustrated



Silly



Excited



Sad



Bored



Tired



Sick



## INTERACTIVE GAME: WHERE'S THE KING

**SUPPLIES:** ping pong balls, permanent marker (prep only), additional ping pong balls (3–4, optional)

Ahead of time, use a permanent marker to draw a simple crown on one ping pong ball.

Display the [Where's the King Slide](#). **God made a promise to His people that He would send a king. They waited a long time for that promised King to arrive. I imagine they were keeping their eyes open, watching for that King to come, don't you?**

Show the ping pong ball with the crown on it. **Today we are going to watch for the king—or at least see if we can find this ping pong ball with a crown on it!**

Have the kids form a circle, standing shoulder to shoulder. If your group is large, consider having kids form multiple circles. (Just be sure you prepare a ball with a crown on it for each circle.) Ask for a volunteer to stand in the middle and explain that her job is to “find the king” (the ping pong ball). **If you are standing in the circle, pass the ball behind your back. Be sneaky! See if you can keep** (say name of kid in the middle) **from finding the king!** Have the kid in the middle close her eyes. Then give the ping pong ball to a kid in the circle.

Tell the kid in the middle to open her eyes. Tell her: **When you think you know where the king is, point to the kid who has it!** When the kid in the middle guesses correctly, have her switch places with the kid who had the ball. Play for as many rounds as you'd like or time allows.

**God's people knew that a king was coming. They had been waiting and watching, just like the player in the middle of our game.** Display the [Mary Wonder Truth Slide](#). **Today's Wonder Truth is JESUS IS THE PROMISED KING, and in God's big story today He is on His way! But He's definitely not coming in the way most people expect.**

**Make It Inclusive:** *If you have kids who have difficulty standing or any kids in wheelchairs, provide chairs so kids can sit in a circle rather than standing in one.*

### Teaching Tip:

*For Older Kids:*  
Encourage the kids in the circle to “trick” the guesser, or add extra ping pong balls but only have the crown on one of them.

## DECLARING GOD'S WONDER

Display the [Mary Declaration Slide](#). Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

**Thank You, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat.)

**You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.)

**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.)

**You keep Your promises,** (Kids repeat.)

**And You sent Jesus to be our King!** (Kids repeat.)

**My life can tell of Your wonder** (Kids repeat.)

### OPENING PRAYER

Before entering into God’s big story, lead kids in an opening prayer. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our King! Help us listen well to what You want to teach us today. May Your Holy Spirit speak to us so that we may know You better. Thank You for always keeping Your promises. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

### GOD’S BIG STORY

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story – we recommend you choose **HEAR IT!** or **EXPERIENCE IT!** and supplement with the **WATCH IT!** video. **HEAR IT!** is read directly from the Bible. **EXPERIENCE IT!** is an interactive story-telling activity.

### Hear It!

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid)

Display the [Mary Title Slide](#). Explain to the kids that today’s reading comes from the Gospels, the four books that tell the events of Jesus’ life. Invite them to turn to [Luke 1](#), the very beginning of the book— before Jesus has even been born. **Let’s start by reading part of God’s big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!** Read [Luke 1:26–38](#). Before reading, you can explain that Elizabeth is a relative of Mary’s and the future mother of John the Baptist. If you have confident readers, invite a few kids to read 3–4 verses each.

### Watch It!

Watch the [Mary God’s Big Story!](#)

#### Teaching Tip:

Kids may ask about the meaning of the word *virgin*. Keep your answer simple. Explain that a virgin is an unmarried woman. With these kinds of questions, it’s often best to defer to parents, so if there are additional questions, feel free to say, “That’s a great question. We can’t get into it right now, but of course you can ask your parents about it.”

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#### WORD OF WONDER:

#### [Isaiah 9:6](#)

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## Experience It!

**SUPPLIES:** construction paper (several sheets per kid in different colors), glue bottles or glue sticks, cardstock (1 sheet per kid)

God's big story today is amazing! And you're going to participate in the story by using your artistic skills in a very unique way to create some of the people we'll learn about! But first, let's review where we are in God's big story.

After being forced to live in Babylon, God's people came back home, but it didn't always feel like home. They were still ruled by others. First the Persians, then the Greeks, then the Romans. They knew there had to be more to God's big story. What about God's promised Messiah—the one who would deliver God's people? What about the King from David's line, whose kingdom would never end? Those who loved God were waiting for the King!

God was on the move, preparing the way. He was working through a married couple named Zechariah and Elizabeth. Elizabeth was going to have a baby named John, who would later be known as John the Baptist. John would be filled with the Holy Spirit, God's presence, and prepare the way for Jesus by telling God's people to turn away from the wrong things they were doing.

Pause the story and hand out several sheets of construction paper (different colors) to each kid. Explain the purpose of the construction paper to the kids: **Each of you has several sheets of construction paper. At different points in God's big story, I'm going to pause and give you a chance to create the character or part of a scene that we're learning about by tearing your paper into that shape. You won't have scissors or anything to write or draw with. You're going to use your imagination and artistic abilities to create our story from torn paper!** Show the [Torn Paper Art Slide](#). Ready? Let's go!

**Make It Inclusive:** *There are multiple ways to modify this activity based on kids' individual needs and abilities. For example, some kids who are neurodivergent may prefer drawing the characters and scenes instead of doing torn paper art, and some might prefer to sculpt the characters out of play dough. Some kids might do best when paired with a leader who tears the paper for them so they can arrange the pieces on a solid sheet of paper.*

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman named Mary who lived in the town of Nazareth. Mary was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. Joseph came from the family line of King David.

Pause in the story and give the kids time to create Mary with torn construction paper. Remind them that the goal here is not perfection—it's OK if their artwork looks abstract!

Gabriel appeared to Mary and greeted her: "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you" ([Luke 1:28](#)). Mary was startled. What kind of greeting was this? The angel told Mary not to be afraid because God was very happy with her. In fact, God was about to do something amazing, and Mary would have a big part in what God was doing. Display the [Luke 1:31-33 Slide](#). "You will become pregnant and give birth to a son." The angel continued, "You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his ancestor David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people" ([Luke 1:31-33](#)).

Pause in the story and give the kids time to create the angel Gabriel with torn construction paper.

Whoa! Had Gabriel just said what Mary thought he said? Had Gabriel just announced the coming of the everlasting King—the one whose kingdom will never end? And was Mary to be this King's ... mother?

### Teaching Tips:

#### For Older Kids:

If you have older kids in your group, encourage them to layer their construction paper art. For example, they could tear out Mary and then tear a head covering for her out of a different-colored paper.

## ELEMENTARY

“‘How can this happen?’ Mary asked the angel” ([Luke 1:34](#)). It was a good question. After all, she wasn’t even married yet! Gabriel told her she would become pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Display the [Luke 1:35](#) Slide. “The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God” ([Luke 1:35](#)). The angel also told Mary what God was doing to prepare the way for Jesus. He told her that her relative Elizabeth was six months pregnant, even though she was old and people thought she couldn’t have children. “That’s because what God says will always come true,” the angel declared ([Luke 1:37](#)). “‘I serve the Lord,’ Mary answered. ‘May it happen to me just as you said it would’” ([Luke 1:38](#)).

Pause in the story and give the kids time to create the promised baby with torn construction paper.

After that, Mary wanted to see Elizabeth, so she set out for Judea. When Mary greeted Elizabeth, the baby inside Elizabeth jumped with joy, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She declared that both Mary and the baby inside Mary were blessed. She recognized that Mary was the mother of the Lord—the Lord who would rule over Elizabeth and everyone else. The King was coming!

Pause in the story and give the kids time to create Elizabeth with torn construction paper.

Then Mary sang a new song. She praised God for what He was doing through her. She praised Him for what He had done in the past, for His kindness to the lowly and hungry, and for keeping His promises. After all, God had just kept the biggest promise of all. The King was coming! Jesus was coming! Jesus is the promised King!

Give the kids time to create a crown with torn construction paper to represent that Jesus is the promised King. Then give kids sheets of cardstock so they can glue their various torn paper art onto it and create a story scene.

### Teaching Tips:

If time is too limited for kids to create a story scene, invite kids to hold up their torn paper art at the end of the story so they can admire one another’s work.

## CONNECTING THE WONDER TRUTH

Display the [Mary Wonder Truth Slide](#). Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

**Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS IS THE PROMISED KING. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

**God promised King David that one of David's relatives would rule as King forever ([2 Samuel 7:11-13](#)). Then Daniel had a dream of one like a son of man ruling a kingdom that never ends ([Daniel 7:13-14](#)). Jesus fulfills both of these things! Jesus is from David's family line, and He is the everlasting King!**

Discuss with the kids that every time we come into God's house (church), we can experience Jesus through His Word from the altar, through friendship and fellowship with each other, through Holy Communion, and through prayer. Remind kids that this is why God commands us to "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." **Let's practice saying this commandment out loud so we can remember it in our hearts. We want to experience Jesus as often as we can and coming to church and Sunday School every week is a way for us to do that.**

**As we plan and prepare for Christmas, let's think about those who don't have food, clothing, or shelter. What are some ways you could help others this time of year?** Let kids share ways they might help those in need such as donating or buying a toy for a local toy drive, donating or buying food to give to a local food pantry, giving or buying clothing to donate to a local clothing drive or thrift store. Be mindful of kids in your group who may need basic resources.

Consider leading an outreach project in your congregation to ensure every family has what they need during the holidays. Work with your rector to share this message with the congregation:

*"As we approach the holiday season, we want to ensure that every family in our congregation feels supported. If your family needs any basic resources or assistance with gifts for your children, please let us know. We will help while honoring your privacy and dignity. If you know others who may need support, please reach out."*

Before sharing, confirm that you have members who are willing and available to support those in need. Involve kids by allowing them to make signs, filling gift bags, wrapping gifts, making cards, etc.

## ELEMENTARY

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

### QUESTIONS: YOUNGER KIDS

- What is the name of the angel who came to see Mary?
- What news did the angel give to Mary?
- What did Mary do when she heard the news?
- How would you feel if an angel appeared to you and told you that the everlasting King was coming?
- What would you do to celebrate really good news like this?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be your King?

Mary was so glad to find out that Jesus, the promised King, was on His way! She shared her joy with God in her prayers to Him. We get to do that too! Let's talk to God now, thanking Him for sending Jesus.

### PRAYER TIME: YOUNGER KIDS

Ask kids to share their praises and prayer requests. Remind them that kings have power and authority. When we pray to Jesus, He can hear and answer our prayers. Begin the prayer time with "King Jesus." Finish the prayer time by saying, "In the name of Jesus, the promised King, we pray, Amen."

**Make It Inclusive:** *Some kids, especially those who are neurodivergent, struggle to think of praises and prayer requests on their own. Write some simple prayer prompts on a whiteboard or sheet of paper: "King Jesus, help me be \_\_\_\_\_;" "King Jesus, thank You for being with me when I \_\_\_\_\_;" and "King Jesus, please help \_\_\_\_\_ know that You love them."*

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## QUESTIONS: OLDER KIDS

- Why were God's people longing for the promised King to arrive?
- Who appeared to Mary? What was his message?
- What was Mary's response?
- How would you respond if an angel appeared to you and told you that the everlasting King was coming?
- God called on Mary to do something big! What big things might God call you to do?
- How would the world be different if everyone knew that Jesus was the King?

God's people had waited a long time, but at last Jesus—the promised King—was on His way. And He is still the King. He will be King forever. Mary knew that something special was happening, and she praised God. We can praise and thank Him too. He is still the God who keeps His promises! Let's thank and praise Him right now.

## PRAYER TIME: OLDER KIDS

Invite the kids to share the things they want to talk to King Jesus about. Consider asking them to kneel while they talk to their King. Remind them that King Jesus has the power to answer their prayers. Invite a few kids to pray. Encourage them to begin with "King Jesus," and end with "In the name of Jesus, the everlasting King, we pray, Amen."

**Make It Inclusive:** *Some kids, especially those who are neurodivergent, struggle to think of praises and prayer requests on their own. Write some simple prayer prompts on a whiteboard or sheet of paper: "King Jesus, help me be \_\_\_\_\_;" "King Jesus, thank You for being with me when I \_\_\_\_\_;" and "King Jesus, please help \_\_\_\_\_ know that you love them."*

### RESPONDING IN WORSHIP: GLORY TO GOD!

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, coloring utensils, whiteboard or paper, dry-erase marker or permanent marker, additional Bibles (1 per kid, optional)

Ahead of time, print a [Giving Glory Sheet](#) for each kid.

Display the [Responding in Worship Slide](#). Gather kids together. Note that for this activity, you may choose to divide into groups of 8–10 if your group is larger.

**When Mary learned what God was doing in her life and the life of her relative Elizabeth, she gave glory to God. When we give God glory, we are thanking Him and praising Him for who He is and what He does. Sometimes we do that through singing, and that's what Mary did too!**

**Let's listen to the words of her song. See if you can hear what she gives God glory for!** Read [Luke 1:46–55](#) slowly and with emphasis. Consider having kids open their Bibles and follow along. Ask the kids to share what they notice; record their answers on a whiteboard or sheet of paper. Then give each kid a [Giving Glory Sheet](#) and set the coloring utensils where kids can access them. Invite kids to write or draw some of the things for which Mary gives God glory on the top half of their sheet. If you have time, read the passage a second time as kids write and draw.

**What about you? What do you give God glory for? What do you want to thank Him for? What do you see in the world around you? What mighty things has He done in your life?** Encourage kids to draw or write their answers on the bottom half of their sheets. After several minutes, invite them to share their answers with a friend. Then call on several kids who would like to share their answers with the group.

**We can give glory to God every day. Today, I especially want to give God glory for sending Jesus to be our everlasting King, just as He promised!** Encourage kids to take their sheets home and to add more things they want to give glory to God for each day this week!

**Make It Inclusive:** Pair a youth or adult volunteer with kids who struggle with activities that involve writing or drawing. Encourage the volunteers to give their partners specific options to choose from. For example, they might ask the child, "Do you want to give God glory for good food to eat or for Christmastime?" Then either the child himself or the volunteer (depending on the child's abilities) can draw a picture that represents the answer.

**Disclaimer:** We have permission from the publisher to use the Spotify music playlist solely for the purposes of the Sunday School hour, Vacation Bible School experiences, fellowship events, or for listening at home. Please note that this playlist is not to be used during the divine service or for any streamed or broadcasted occasion.

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#### Teaching Tips:

*For Younger Kids:*  
You may need to point out specific things included in Mary's song that God has done ([Luke 1:46–55](#)) and explain any words kids don't understand.

## BLESSING YOUR KIDS

Display the [Mary Blessing Slide](#). Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

**Blessing:** May Jesus be your King forever. May you listen to Him and learn from Him. May you experience His love and peace. May you trust that God always keeps His promises.