



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the Promised King

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1

WORD OF WONDER: From Isaiah 9:6

I've always been a slow reader. During my first year of seminary, I was behind in the reading for one of my theology classes, so I blocked out time to catch up. I expected a long day of slogging through dense paragraphs, and my expectations were met. But God brought something unexpected too. Somehow, those dense paragraphs gave me fresh eyes for the truth about who Jesus is. I ended up kneeling on the floor in teary-eyed wonder, praising Jesus the King.

Read Luke 1:26–38. It doesn't have to come through a theology textbook. It might come through a song, a poem, or a service project. It might come through a familiar passage of Scripture or one you've never read before. Or it might come as you're preparing to teach kids about God's big story. Every time we revisit the Christmas story, there's an opportunity to hear and read anew. Who is Jesus? According to the angel Gabriel, Jesus is the promised King, the one whose kingdom will never end. Do you believe that?

It's so easy to miss out on the truth, to go through the motions, to hear without hearing or see without seeing. This week don't miss out on the story. Jesus really is King, and His kingdom really is coming. Christmas changes everything!

—**Michael Rade**

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DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Play Your Praise

SUPPLIES: toy musical instruments

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! Let's start today by making some music together. We can use instruments and our voices to praise God. Today we're going to learn about Mary. Mary was so thankful to God that she sang God a song. We'll learn more about it in our story today. Let's make a song together.

Allow the kids to play with the instruments as they wish. Encourage them to take turns trying different instruments.



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LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You that we are here together and that Your Holy Spirit is with us. Today help us learn more about how You always keep Your promises. Thank You for keeping the best promise—the promise to send Jesus as King! We want to see, feel, hear, and know Your great love. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible important? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 266-270
An Angel Visits Mary

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us.
He will be called the Prince of Peace.**

—from Isaiah 9:6

God promised long ago that a child would be born, and that the child would be the Prince of Peace. God kept that promise in Jesus! Jesus is the promised King!

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How does it feel to know that God always keeps His promises?**
- **Do you think people expected the promised King to come as a baby? What makes you think so?**