



## 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

### Curiosity Activity: Where's the King?

**SUPPLIES:** permanent marker (prep only), table tennis balls (3), opaque cups (3)

Ahead of time, use a permanent marker to draw a simple crown on one table tennis ball (the other two should be left plain).

Have the kids sit in a circle. Set the cups and table tennis balls in front of you on the floor. **God made a promise to His people that He would send a King. They waited a long time for that promised King to arrive. They were probably keeping their eyes open, watching for that King to come.**

**Today we're going to watch and wait for the King—or at least, see if we can find this table tennis ball with a crown on it.** Show the table tennis ball with the crown on it. **Let's call this one the King!** Cover all three tennis table balls with the cups, making sure the kids see which cup the king starts under.



**I'm going to mix the cups up, and your job is to keep your eyes open and on the cup that has the king. When I stop moving the cups, point to the cup where the king is waiting!**

Start by moving the cups slowly and with only a few changes in placement. For older kids or as they get used to the game, experiment with moving the cups faster. Every time the kids find the king, lead them in shouting out, **"The king is here!"** Play for as many rounds as you'd like or as time allows.

**God's people knew that a king was coming. They had been waiting and watching, just like we did in our game. Today's Wonder Truth is JESUS IS THE PROMISED KING, and He is on His way! But He's not coming in the way most people expect.**



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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

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What message did the angel give Mary?** *(Mary was going to have a baby, and the baby was the promised King.)*
- **How do you think Mary felt when she saw the angel?**
- **Who did Mary go visit after she heard from the angel?** *(Her cousin Elizabeth)*
- **What happened to the baby in Elizabeth's belly when she greeted Mary?** *(The baby leaped inside of her.)*
- **Why do you think the baby inside of Elizabeth's belly leaped?**
- **How did Mary worship God?** *(With a song)*
- **What are some ways we can worship God?**

## 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?**



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## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Craft: Angels

**SUPPLIES:** muffin cups, die cut circles, pipe cleaner halo, stapler, glue

In our story today, the angel gave Mary good news. It was news that people had been waiting many, many years to hear. Have you ever gotten some good news? What was it? Allow kids to answer. Today we're going to make an angel to remind us of the time the angel came to Mary.

Help kids to fold their muffin cups to make wings and the body. Staple together. Let the kids draw on the face and glue it down. Add the halo last.

