

Week 4, December 20: Love

Big idea: God loved the world so much that He kept His promise to David by sending Jesus, and Mary answered God's love with a willing yes.

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 · Luke 1:46-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 · Romans 16:25-27 · Luke 1:26-38

MEMORY VERSE

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:37 (KJV)

Kids' lesson (30 minutes)

1. **Light the candles (3 min).** Light all four candles, ending with Love. Ask: "How do you know someone loves you?"
2. **Game: Gabriel says (5 min).** Play "Simon says" as "Gabriel says." Afterward ask: "Was it hard to listen carefully?" Say: "Today, Mary listened to a real message from the angel Gabriel."
3. **Story: Gabriel visits Mary (8 min).** Read Luke 1:26-38. God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary in Nazareth (Luke 1:26-27). Gabriel said, "Fear not, Mary," and told her she would have a baby named Jesus, who would reign forever (Luke 1:30-33). Mary said yes: "Be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38).
4. **Talk about it (6 min).**
   - How do you think Mary felt when she saw the angel?
   - Gabriel said nothing is impossible with God. What seems impossible to you?
   - How can we say yes to God like Mary did?
5. **Activity: My yes to God (6 min).** Children cut out a paper heart. On one side they write "God loves me." On the other they write one way they will show God's love this week, such as helping at home or making a card for a neighbour.
6. **Prayer (2 min).** "God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus. Help us say yes to You like Mary. Amen."

Supplies: red and pink paper, scissors, markers.

Take-home note for families

Today we heard how the angel Gabriel told Mary she would be Jesus' mother. Ask your child: *What did Mary say to the angel?* This week, do your child's "yes to God" act of love together.

Adult small group questions

1. David wanted to build God a house, but God promised to build David a house instead (2 Samuel 7). When has God answered your plans with something better?
2. Mary asks "How shall this be?" before saying yes. What questions do you bring to God, and can faith hold them alongside trust?
3. Gabriel calls Mary "highly favoured" before she has done anything. How does receiving God's love first change the way we serve Him?

Quiz

1. Which angel did God send to Mary?
2. In which town did Mary live?
3. What name did the angel tell Mary to give her baby?
4. Which of Mary's relatives was also expecting a baby (Luke 1:36)?
5. In 2 Samuel 7:16, how long did God promise David's throne would last?

Story video

A 45-second narrated video for this week is at **biblelessonhelper.com/advent**. It works with the sound off too, thanks to captions.

Quiz answers

1. Gabriel (Luke 1:26)
2. Nazareth, in Galilee (Luke 1:26)
3. Jesus (Luke 1:31)
4. Her cousin Elisabeth (Luke 1:36)
5. For ever (2 Samuel 7:16)

Before you teach: look up each reference once in your church's Bible. Some newer translations word the verses differently, and a few name places differently, such as "Bethany beyond the Jordan" instead of Bethabara in John 1:28.

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