

ALLEY LG – Dec 5th/6th

Bible Story: Yes, Mary, This Is a Savior (Gabriel appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-38*

Bottom Line: God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?

Memory Verse: “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” *John 3:16, NIV*

Life App: Compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else’s need.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

Host enters wearing a train conductor hat

Opener

HOST: “Hello again, everyone! I have good news! We’re a week closer to Christmas than we were last week! Woo-hoo! If you remember from last time, you know that we love Christmas movies around here. Can anyone guess which Christmas movie this costume I’m wearing is from? I triple dog dare you to guess what movie it’s from!”

Take a few suggestions from the kids.

“Let’s see if you are right!”

Video: *Polar Express Clip*

“Yes! *The Polar Express*! I love that movie because it deals with one of my absolute favorite subjects. That’s right, trains! I love trains! And watching *The Polar Express* has given me the idea for another awesome Christmas game! These trees could use some more decorations, and all of our decorations are at the back of the room just like the presents were last week. So, I’ve got a game where we will get the decorations up here and put them on the trees. It’s called ‘Decoration Train!’

Divide the room into two teams

CG: *“Decoration Train!” Slide*

“When I say, ‘Go,’ the decorations will start at one end of the back row and get passed one decoration at a time all the way down the row. When it gets to the end of that row, it will be passed to the next row and then back down that row to the other end. The decorations will go back and forth like this through every row forming a decoration train. When they reach the last three people on the front row, those three will take the decorations up to their team’s tree and decorate it! The first team to have a completely decorated tree will win the game. On your marks ... get set ... go!”

SFX: *Play fast music during the game*

Encourage the children to cheer for each other as they pass the decorations. When the decorations have made it to the front and the trees have been decorated, declare a winner.

“Great job, everyone! Those trees look a thousand percent better! As we celebrate Christmas here, we’re also talking about one of the most important parts of Christmas: showing compassion.

CG: Compassion Slide

“Compassion is caring enough to do something about someone else's need. More important than the presents, the decorations, and even the Christmas movies is helping other people meet their needs. And when we take the time to help meet the needs of other people, we’re showing compassion.

CG: Triple Dog Dare Theme Slide

“So this month we have all been triple dog dared to show compassion. In case you weren’t here last week, here is what we mean by a triple dog dare....

Video: Christmas Story clip

So you can see that the triple dog dare is the most serious dare of all.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “As an early Christmas present to you, I am going to try something that I’ve never tried before. I’m a little nervous and I really hope it turns out well. But first, I want to remind everyone about our memory verse.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“John 3:16 says“ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” *NIV*) Christmas is about giving, because God gave us His Son, Jesus. And our story today is about the moment when Mary found out how she would give birth to Jesus. We’re mostly going use our imaginations to help tell this story, but your imagination will have a little help from me and the teach team too.

STORYTELLER: “This story requires a lot of sound effects. I need you back in the trach booth helping make sure we hear all the right sound effects and music at the right moments. Can you do that for us?”

STORYTELLER: “Thank you. Now I’m going to need a spotlight over my head.”

LIGHTING: Spotlight on Storyteller

(Note: If you don’t have spotlight capabilities in your environment, you can use a shop light or high-powered flashlight to simulate the lighting effect.)

“Good. Now let’s lower the lights in the rest of the room.”

LIGHTING: Lower house lights

“There. That’s perfect. Now everything is calm and we’re ready to begin ... with our background music.

SFX: *Really fast club/techno music*

"Whoa! Hey! Stop that!"

SFX: *Cut music*

STORYTELLER: "No. I picked out something else specifically for this story."

SFX: *Calm background music*

STORYTELLER: "Ahh, much better. Our story begins a long, long time ago with a young woman named Mary who lived in a village called Nazareth. At the moment things were going well for Mary. She was engaged to be married to a young man named Joseph.

SFX: *"Awwwwwww."*

"Nice touch. Yes, I'm sure she was looking forward to the wedding and thinking about what life being married to Joseph would be like. He'd continue working as a carpenter while she took care of their new home together. Eventually, they would have children to raise.

SFX: *Dog bark*

"Maybe even get a dog.

SFX: *Cat meow*

"Or possibly a cat ... maybe.

SFX: *Cow moo*

(Confused) "Or ... a cow ... I guess.

SFX: *Lion roar*

"No! Not a lion! [Tech person's name], you're getting a little goofy with the sound effects again.

SFX: *Donkey braying*

STORYTELLER: (Sigh.) "I'm sure Mary imagined that their children would grow up and get married too. And one day Mary and Joseph would even have grandchildren to help take care of them as they grew older. Yes, she had it all planned out and there were nothing but good things on the horizon for Mary."

GABRIEL VISTS MARY

STORYTELLER: "But then one day something strange happened that Mary wasn't expecting.

SFX: *Dramatic "dun-dun-dun"*

"Maybe a little dramatic, but yes, it was something big and important. An angel appeared to Mary.

STORYTELLER: "The angel's name was Gabriel, and check out what he said in Luke 1:28: 'The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you.' (NirV) But Mary was confused by this and even a little frightened. What did this angel mean? How had God blessed her?"

SFX: *Cash register "cha-ching"*

"Nice try, but no, God hadn't blessed Mary with money. Gabriel explained, saying (*read Luke 1:30-33*), 'Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. 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 father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end.'" (NirV)

MARY IS CONFUSED AND SCARED

SFX: *Very happy celebration music*

STORYTELLER: "Hold on. Stop the music."

SFX: *Cut music*

STORYTELLER: "I can see that seems like something to celebrate, but Mary wasn't celebrating just yet. This news was huge! She was going to have a baby? And the baby was going to be God's Son? But she wasn't even married yet! What was going to happen to all the plans she'd been making? This was going to change everything! Mary was still confused and asked the angel how this was even going to be possible."

GABRIEL REASSURES MARY

SFX: *Calm background music*

STORYTELLER: (*Reading from Luke 1:35-37*) "Gabriel said, 'The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That's because what God says will always come true.' (NirV)

"Now Mary could have responded in a lot of different ways. She could have told the angel to go find some other woman for the job because she already had plans. She could have stayed frightened and hid in a corner. But instead, Mary said this to Gabriel (*read from Luke 1:38*) 'I serve the Lord. ... May it happen to me just as you said it would.' (NirV) And then the angel left. And it did all happen just like the angel told her. The end."

LIGHTING: *Back to normal*

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

HOST: "So Mary got some life-changing news but responded with a lot of courage." She trusted the angel when he said that God would be with her. He was going to help Mary every step of the way and make sure she had what she needed. But this story isn't just about Mary and her needs. It's about

everyone's needs. God knew that we needed Jesus and so He gave Him to us. And we should have that same attitude.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

"Our Bottom Line tells us a little bit more about this idea. **[Bottom Line] God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?**

STORYTELLER: "God saw what we needed and made sure that we received it. We can do the same for other people. We know that everyone needs Jesus, so we can share the message with them. We can invite people to church. And we can do a lot to help people get the basic things they need like food, water, and clothing." So start looking around and talk with your family and friends about ways that you can help people in need. Let's pray."

Pray

"Dear God, thank You for the story of Mary. Help us to have the same attitude that she had when You ask us to do things that are important. Show us the ways that we can help others with what they need and give us opportunities to serve them. Thank You for seeing our greatest need and for giving us Jesus. We love You, we praise Your name, and it's in Jesus' name that we ask all of these things, amen."

CG: Parkview Kids Challenge

ST "Before you go, we are Triple Dog Daring you to help kids your age in our area! All month long we'll be collecting school supplies for the teachers at Taft School in Lockport. This school does not have a lot of money so they are not able to buy supplies for the teachers and they need them very badly to help the kids learn. We are collecting these three things:

- Markers for their dry erase boards
- Post it notes
- Paper clips

You can bring these things when you come to church one of the next 3 weeks and can put them_____. And our challenge will be_____ and they will win_____.

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.