

CITY SG – 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: 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.” *John 3:16, NIV*

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

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to open the kids’ eyes to the needs of those around them. Pray for them to have opportunities to meet others’ needs, both big and small. And pray for kids to be motivated to answer the call.

Masterpiece Theater (review the Bible story)

What You Need: 12-15 Gabriel and Mary puppets per bin

What You Do:

- Give each child the Mary and Gabriel puppets (If there are not enough in the bin, have the kids take turns or give each just a Gabriel OR a Mary puppet
- As you go through one story review point, have the kids use their puppets to act out the answers to your questions.

Story Review:

- (Hold up your “Mary” puppet) “Who is this? (Mary; encourage to kids hold up their Mary puppet) Mary is just hanging around and suddenly who shows up?” (An angel; everyone holds up their angel puppet)
- “The angel introduces himself to Mary. What do you think he said to Mary?” (Hi Mary, I am an angel. My name is Gabriel.)
- “Mary was afraid when she saw the angel. When you are afraid, what do you do? (Pause for answers.) Mary didn’t run and hide but I wonder if she was shaking because she was afraid.” (Encourage kids to shake their Mary puppet)
- “The angel had a message for Mary from God. Does anyone remember what the message was?” (Don’t be afraid, God is pleased with you, you will give birth to a Son, Jesus. Jesus will be great, etc.)
- “The angel said to Mary, ‘The Holy Spirit and the power of God will make it happen.’ And then what did Mary say to the angel?” (I serve the Lord, May God make it happen, etc.)

What You Say:

“You did a great job retelling the story. God saw our greatest need; we needed a Savior, a Rescuer. People all around us have needs; there are people in our lives who could use help. But before you can show compassion and care enough to do something about someone else’s need, you have to be able to see people’s needs. You have to keep your eyes open and be willing to treat others the way you

would want to be treated. God cared about us so much that **[Bottom Line] God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?"**

[Make It Personal] *(Share about a time when someone showed you compassion by seeing something you needed and helping you. Maybe your car got a flat tire and someone saw you needed help fixing it. Or someone saw you were having a rough day so they stopped and asked if they could pray with you.)*

See the Need *(application activity)*

What You Need: Christmas Tree template (one per child), small circle stickers that are around an inch diameter (enough for 10 per child)

What You Do:

- Give each child a Christmas tree template
- Give each child some circle stickers
- Tell the kids to write a name of someone on their life on the circle stickers *(family members, friends, neighbors, teacher, coach, small group leader, etc.)*
- Place the stickers on the tree as "ornaments"
- Have the kids think of a way that they can show compassion to EACH of the people on their tree
- Let kids who want to share a few of their ornaments and how they will show compassion to that person this Holiday season
- Encourage the kids to hang this tree up somewhere where they will see it at home so they will remember our challenge to show compassion to each of these people.

What You Say:

"You did a great job thinking of how to show compassion to the people in your life. Sometimes it is hard to see when someone has a need, but if we remember to treat others the way we want to be treated, it will help us to see the needs of others.

"So this week, keep your eyes open and remember our Compassion Challenge for this week: **[Bottom Line] God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?"**

Verse Match *(memory verse activity)*

What You Need: 2 sets of "Verse Cards" Activity Page (make 2 sets per group)

What You Do:

- **Please note: Some K- first graders cannot read so make sure to read the cards to them**
- Shuffle the "Verse Cards" and lay them face down on the floor in a grid pattern.
- One kid flips over two cards.
- If the cards match, the kid picks them up and it is the next kid's turn.
- If the cards don't match, the kid flips the cards back over and the next kid gets a turn to find a match.
- After all the matches are found, work as a team to put the verse in order.

What You Say:

“Let’s say the verse together. *(Let the kids lead you in saying the verse. Give help when needed.)* God loved us so much and He cared about us so much that He saw our greatest need. God saw we needed a Savior, a Rescuer, so He sent us His one and only Son. Can anyone tell me who God’s one and only Son is? *(Jesus)* That’s right! God loved the world so much that He gave us Jesus. And anyone who believes in Jesus will not die but will live with God forever in heaven. God sent us Jesus and when we believe in Jesus we can live with God now and forever in heaven. **[Bottom Line] God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?**”

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pray with the kids.

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] “**God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?** Let’s pray and ask God for help to see the needs of others and to show compassion.

“God, You are awesome! We are so thankful You see our every need and especially our need for a Rescuer. Thank You for loving us and sending Jesus. Help us open our eyes to see the needs of others. Help us to see ways we can show compassion and meet those needs. Amen.”

PARENT CONNECTION AT PICK UP

Remind parents the kids are learning about compassion and their “Compassion Challenge” this week is to see the needs of others. Encourage kids to use their puppets to tell their parents the story about Gabriel meeting Mary.