

ALLEY SG – December 9- 10, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Our King of Peace (Gabriel Appears to Mary) • Luke 1:26-56

Today's Key Question: What are your plans this Christmas?

Today's Bottom Line: You can have peace because God has a plan.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.* Isaiah 9:6 (NIRV)

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, bags of gift bows with around 25-30 bows per bag (3 bags per bin)

What You Do:

- Divide your group into teams of three or four kids.
- Make sure each team has a zip top bag of gift bows.
- Ask: "Who were the main characters mentioned in today's story?" (*Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, Elizabeth*)
- Read a statement below and instruct the teams to arrange the gift bows to form the first letter in the name of the character from the story who might have said that statement.
- Possible Bible Story Statements:
 - I've gotta go check this out with my cousin, Elizabeth. (*Mary*)
 - I can't wait to tell Mary that God has an amazing, one-of-a-kind plan for her life. (*Gabriel*)
 - I'm from Nazareth and King David is one of my ancient relatives (*Joseph*)
 - You will have a Son and His name will be Jesus. (*Gabriel*)
 - I nearly lost it when an angel appeared to me out of the blue. (*Mary*)
 - The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you. (*Gabriel*)
 - I am going to have a baby and the baby is God's Son. (*Mary*)
 - Whoa! I felt my baby jump when you came in. (*Elizabeth*)
 - I trusted the angel when he said that God would be with me. (*Mary*)
 - I'm nervous about what's next, but I'm going to choose to trust God. (*Joseph, Mary, or Elizabeth*)
- To help the kids connect with the story, ask:
 - What do you think Mary would have been thinking and feeling after the angel Gabriel left?
 - Gabriel gave Mary a lot to think about—one minute she was an ordinary young girl about to marry a guy named Joseph, and the next minute she was going to have a baby who would save the world. That's terrifying on a lot of levels. Name some fears Mary would have needed to trust God with.
 - Mary's situation was unique to say the least. Still, fear is fear, but we can have joy even when we're afraid of what's next. Why is that true?

2. Discussion Questions

- How would you define peace? What is the opposite of peace?
- What do you believe about God that can help you when you start to feel worried or anxious about something?
- What does it look like for a kid your age to have peace? How does it show up in things you say and do?

3. Just for Christmas Fun

What You Need: gift bows

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to choose a partner.
- Instruct each pair to stand facing each other a couple feet apart.
- Place a bow on the floor in between the partners at an equal distance from each of them.
- Instruct the kids to perform the actions you call out, like:
 - Tap your head.
 - Cover your ears.
 - Touch your toes, etc.
- When you say, “Deck the halls,” direct the kids to snatch the bow.
- The kid who snatches the bow first is the winner of that round.
- As you call out the actions, begin slowly and get faster.
- After each round, instruct the winners to form new pairs.
- Play again until there is one final champion.
- Repeat as time allows.

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Romans 15:13.
- Read the verse together.
- Ask:
 - How would you describe “perfect peace”?
 - Based on this verse, where does peace come from and how do we get it?
 - What are some situations we face that can steal away our peace?
 - Why do you think Jesus is called the Prince Who Brings Peace?
 - Why is Jesus the best source of peace?

5. Pray

- “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus. He came as a baby and was placed in a manger but would one day be the Savior of the world. Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven and have peace in our heart and with You. As we get ready to celebrate Christmas with friends and family, help us to remember that You have a plan and Your plans are always for our good. Whether things go the way we want or not, help us trust You no matter what. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to explain to the parent why we can have peace this Christmastime.