

MARY VISITED ELIZABETH



TRANSITION/GROUP TIME

SNACK

1s–2s: Place the snack on the tables.

3s–5s: Choose children to help serve the snack. Ask a volunteer to pray.
Remind the preschoolers to clean their snack areas.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME

1s–2s: Tell the Bible story as the children snack. Then allow the children to play in the room.

3s–5s: Guide the preschoolers to walk slowly as they move to the group-time area.

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

MARY VISITED ELIZABETH—BASED ON LUKE 1:39-56

- Ask the preschoolers to name ways they can praise God.
- Mention that in today's Bible story, the kids will learn that people can praise God for Jesus. Open a Bible to Luke 1. Tell the Bible story.

SUMMARIZE THE BIBLE STORY

(Use words in **bold** for babies–2s; all words for 3s–5s.)

- **Mary went to visit an older relative named Elizabeth.**
- Elizabeth was waiting for her own baby to be born. **When Mary greeted her, Elizabeth knew something special had happened to Mary.**
- **Elizabeth praised God. She told Mary that she was blessed and her child, too.**
- **Mary praised God as she said,** “You do great things. You are kind to all people. **You keep your promises.” Mary thanked God** for the promises He had given. Mary knew God would keep the promises He told her.
- **Mary stayed with Elizabeth** for about three months, **and then** she **returned to her home** in the town of Nazareth.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Who did Mary go visit for a little while?
- What did Elizabeth and Mary both do?

EMPHASIZE THE LIFE POINT

- Remark that people can praise God for Jesus.

ROOM
YOUR TEACHING PARTNERS
DATE OF USE

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Jesus is God's Son.

LIFE POINT

People can praise God for Jesus.

UNIT VERSE

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Matthew 2:1

WEEKLY VERSE

Mary praised and thanked God. Luke 1:46

SING TOGETHER

Sing to the tune of “London Bridge”:

We can praise God for Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

We can praise God for Jesus. All can praise Him.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Open a Bible to Luke 1:46. Point to the verse and mention that it comes from the book of Luke in the New Testament. Read aloud the verse. Lead the kids to repeat the verse while doing various motions (clap hands, wave hands in the air, or hold hands and walk in a circle).

PRAY

Lead the preschoolers to tell any prayer requests they may have. Invite a few volunteers to pray. Encourage the kids to thank God for Jesus.

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Emphasize: People can praise God for Jesus.

1. **Play instruments.** Gather rhythm stick sets, shakers, triangles, and finger cymbals. Invite the preschoolers to pick instruments. Play “Jesus Is Born” (Music). Invite the kids to play instruments and sing. Switch instruments and play “The Story.” Remind the kids we can praise God for Jesus in many ways. One of those ways is with songs and instruments.

Adapt for Babies–2s: Include rattles and bells.

2. **Play a cup stacking game.** Use a permanent marker to write each word of the Unit Verse on a separate cup. (Make sure the words are right side up when cups are stacked with the bottoms up.) Show the kids how to stack a three-level tower with the verse words in order.

Suggestion: Number the cups on the bottoms so kids can stack them in order. Using a timer, encourage each child to see how quickly he can stack a cup tower in verse word order. Open a Bible to Matthew 2:1 and read aloud the verse.

Adapt for Babies–2s: Play with stacking toys.

3. **Draw your families.** Provide dry erase boards and dry erase markers for the boys and girls to draw pictures of their families. Talk with them about who they are drawing and what they like to do with their families. (Be sensitive to kids

in nontraditional family situations.) Review the Bible story, reminding the kids that Mary visited one of her family members, Elizabeth. Remark that Mary and Elizabeth both praised and thanked God.

Adapt for Babies–2s: Touch, hold, drop, and stack beanbags.

4. **Play out items to pack.** Gather the kids in a circle. Place a suitcase or bag in the middle of the circle. Lead the children to name things they would pack on a trip. Choose a child to start the game. Invite her to play out one thing she would pack to go on a trip. Give suggestions as needed (hairbrush, toothbrush, soap, shoes, sunglasses, clothes). Lead the boys and girls to guess the item she is going to pack. Once they guess correctly, invite the child to pretend to put the item in the suitcase. Continue playing, allowing each child to get a turn to play out an item and put it in the suitcase. (If a child wants to put a silly item in, such as a banana or a toy, that is fine, too!) Remind the kids that Mary traveled to see Elizabeth after she found out she would have a baby.

Adapt for Babies–2s: Let the kids pack a few items (hairbrush, sunglasses, shirt, and so on) in a bag.

CLEAN UP

Lead the kids to clean up their activities.

PLAY A PASSING GAME

Place a chair for each child in a large circle. Play Christmas music. Lead the kids to pass a ball around the circle. Stop the music. Ask the child holding the ball to say one thing she remembers from the Bible story. Restart the music and guide the kids to pass the ball. Repeat the game as time allows.

DISMISS

Help the kids gather their papers and belongings. Thank them for coming. Remind the parents to review the Bible story on the Kids Activity Page.