

MARY VISITED ELIZABETH



TRANSITION/GROUP TIME

SNACK

Include the kids in the distribution of the snack. Ask for volunteers to pray. Lead the kids to clean up after the snack. Thank them for their help.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME

Invite kids to play “Freeze Dance.” Play Christmas music. Instruct kindergartners to dance while the music plays, and then to “freeze” when the music stops. Play several rounds before seating boys and girls for group time.

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

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

- Say: “Today, we will hear how Mary praised God for Jesus.”

SUMMARIZE THE BIBLE STORY

(In advance, read the story from the Bible and the Kids Activity Page. During the session, open the Bible and tell or summarize the Bible story.)

- After the angel appeared to Mary, she hurried to see her relative, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was also going to have a baby. (Luke 1:36-37)
- When Mary arrived at Elizabeth’s home, Elizabeth was excited to hear Mary was going to give birth to Jesus. Elizabeth said, “Your child will be blessed, and you, Mary, are blessed among women. When I heard your voice, the baby inside of me leaped for joy.”
- Elizabeth was happy that Mary, the mother of the special baby, came to visit her. Mary praised God for Jesus. She sang and said, “My soul praises the greatness of God. God has done great things for me.”

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Who did Mary go to see after the angel appeared to her?
- What did the baby inside Elizabeth do at the sound of Mary’s voice?
- Who did Mary praise God for?
- Think: Why do you think the baby inside Elizabeth leaped at the sound of Mary’s voice?

EMPHASIZE THE LIFE POINT

- Tell the kids that people can praise God for Jesus.

ROOM
YOUR TEACHING PARTNERS
DATE OF USE

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Jesus is God’s one and only 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 “Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush”:

*Mary praised God for being the mom,
Being the mom, being the mom,
Mary praised God for being the mom,
Of God’s one and only Son.*

*Jesus was born in Bethlehem,
In Bethlehem, in Bethlehem.
Jesus was born in Bethlehem,
As God planned for Jesus.*

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Invite kids to clap Luke 1:46 with you. Say the verse slowly while clapping your hands on each word’s syllables. Say the verse again while clapping slightly faster. Increase the speed of your clapping each successive time you lead kids to say the verse with you.

PRAY

Pray: “God, we thank You and praise You for sending Jesus to be born on earth. Amen.”

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Emphasize: People can praise God for Jesus.

1. **Play a cup stacking game.** Using a permanent marker, write each word of the Unit Verse on six plastic cups, one word per cup. (Make sure the words are right side up when cups are stacked with the bottoms up.) Show kids how to stack a three-level tower with the verse words 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 the verse. Keep a written list of times and challenge children to beat their own speed times.
2. **Go on a string journey.** Create a path around the room using a ball of string or a skein of yarn. Unwrap the string as you walk around chairs and furniture. Pass the string under tables, over low toys, around furniture, running the string from one side of the room to the other. Encourage kids to start at the beginning of the string path and to follow the string around

the room without disturbing the string. As kids follow the path, open your Bible to Luke 1 and remind them that Mary journeyed to visit her relative, Elizabeth. Mary praised God for Jesus.

3. **Make a Christmas kazoo.** Provide markers, Christmas stickers, short paper tubes, pieces of wax paper that are larger than the tube’s opening, rubber bands, and a sharpened pencil or wooden skewer. Help kids write the Weekly Verse on their tubes: *Mary praised and thanked God. Luke 1:46.* Cover one opening of the tube with wax paper. Tightly secure it in place by wrapping a rubber band around it. Assist kids to punch one hole in the tube on the end covered with wax paper. Lead kids to decorate their tubes with stickers. Show kids how to create music and to praise God with their kazooos by humming into the open end of the tube. Remind kids that people can praise God for Jesus.
4. **Explore musical instruments.** Place 4–5 different rhythm instruments (toy drum, maracas, small keyboard, triangle, sand blocks, wrist bells) on a tabletop. Invite kids to explore the instruments with you. Demonstrate how to properly play each instrument. Lead kids to beat out a rhythm. As they play the instruments, encourage them to praise God. Remind them that Mary praised God for sending Jesus.

CLEAN UP

Play Christmas music, and invite kindergartners to see if they can quickly put everything away before the song finishes playing.

PLAY A PASSING GAME

Place a chair for each child in a large circle. Play Christmas music. Lead 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 kids to continue passing the ball. Repeat the game as time allows.

DISMISS

Help kids to gather their Kids Activity Pages, artwork, and belongings as they prepare to leave. Invite each child to give you a high five while repeating the Unit Verse with you.