



1ST-3RD GRADE

SOMEONE LIKE YOU

UNDERCOVER CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 5, 2018

Bible Story: (Gabriel Appears to Mary)

Scripture: Luke 1:26-56

"Caring enough to do something about someone else's need"

CONNECT

6:30PM - 7:00PM - SMALL GROUP



COMPASSION PROFILES

SUPPLIES:

- "Compassion Profile" Activity Pages

DIRECTIONS:

Hand out the Activity Pages and explain that kids are going to create a "compassion profile" of themselves, similar to a character profile an author might create. Instruct kids to make the person look like they do and write down personal traits for each of the four categories listed in the box. Collect kids' papers to use again after Large Group. "Those are some great traits you listed on your compassion profiles. I like how there's such a variety of talents, strengths, and likes within our group. I bet those things that describe you could be important in some way. [Transition] Let's go to Large Group to find out more about that."

GOD CAN USE ME

SUPPLIES:

- Kids' "Compassion Profiles"

DIRECTIONS:

Hand kids' papers back out. Allow a minute or two for kids to share their papers with the kids around them and talk about what makes them who they are. Explain that you're going to list ways God can use people to meet others' needs. After each one, they can call out something from their profile that would qualify them to help meet that need and then explain how they can use that quality to meet the need.

Ways to Meet Others' Needs:

- Make a card for someone in the hospital.
- Set up a lemonade stand in the front yard to raise money for missions.
- Help your mom decorate for your sibling's birthday party.
- Help a little kid learn to go down a slide.
- Sing songs at a nursing home to bring happiness to the residents.
- Help your teacher organize a messy bookshelf.
- Help your dad make a new fire pit area in the backyard.
- Take part in a bike race to support a cause you believe in.
- Cook a meal for a neighbor who just had a baby..

"God created each of us uniquely to do the things He made us to do. Some of us are good at some things and others are not. But those people have other things they're good at. We can't all be good at everything, right? So keep thinking about all the ways God has created you to be able to meet others' needs, and then think of how you might actually do some of them. Don't wait for someone else to tell you what you can do to meet others' needs. Take the initiative and do it yourself! [Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others' needs, and that includes you and me!"

GROW

7:00PM - 7:30PM - LARGE GROUP



OPENER

SUPPLIES:

- Worship Leaders (or other adults) to judge the game
- Christmas suit or footie pajamas (for Host)
- Christmas fedora (for Host)
- Decorated Christmas tree (from last week)
- Wrapping paper, tape, and bows to cover Host
- Terribly wrapped gift
- Gallon-size resealable bags (one for each small group), containing:
- Odd-shaped gift (this could be anything: deodorant, action figure, toothbrush, etc.)
- Bows
- Tape
- Safety scissors
- Roll of wrapping paper (outside of the bag)

HOST

"Hey, everyone! It's great to see you. (Hold up the gift.) I'm trying to wrap this Christmas present. How does it look? Pretty good? Just okay?"

"Yeah, apparently I'm not very good at wrapping gifts. It's just so complicated! There's tape, scissors, a billion different types of wrapping paper and bows, and a lot of folding—like a LOT. And then I'm never quite sure where to put the tape, or how much tape to use, or whether my fold is neat enough. Then I end up ripping through the paper and I have to start all over again. Ugh! It's just so hard. But enough about my troubles . . ."

Toss the present to the side of the stage.

"This month we've got an Undercover Christmas mission. We're talking about compassion!"

CG: COMPASSION SLIDE

"Compassion is caring enough to do something about someone else's need."

"When you care about others, you want to help them. That's why we're going undercover: to find ways we can help the people around us."

**POWER POINT:
COMPASSION
SLIDE**

**POWER POINT:
WRAP-IT**

"You know what? I think we might be able to practice that right now. Maybe you can help me. You see, I'll need to wrap some gifts for my family and friends and, well, you saw the mess I made when I tried a minute ago. Maybe you can teach me a few things about wrapping presents! I need everyone to circle up with your small group and get ready to play 'The Great Wrap-It-Up Race'!

CG: "THE GREAT WRAP-IT-UP RACE" SLIDE

Leader enter and hand out a bag of supplies and a roll of wrapping paper to each Small Group Leader. Then they stand on stage.

**POWER POINT:
60 SECOND**

CG: 60-SECOND COUNTDOWN

Host offers running commentary as the groups race to wrap their gifts.

"All right, everyone. Time's up! Leaders, you can bring all of your beautifully wrapped gifts up to the stage to our judges.

Small Group Leaders bring gifts to the front of the stage and set them on the table. Host holds up each item for the judges and talks about how great the wrapping is (even if it's not).

"Let's give our judges some time to talk it over and make their decision. "All right. The judges have spoken. All of you were world-class wrappers, but today's winner is [Leader's name]'s group! Give them a big hand!

"Thanks for playing, everyone. Go ahead and put your wrapping supplies back in the bag, and throw away any trash on the floor. I'll come around and get the bags from your Leaders. Go ahead and jump up on your feet, because it's time for us to sing and worship God together!"

STORY TELLER

SUPPLIES:

- Three voice actors (two female and one male to play Mary, Elizabeth, and Gabriel), wearing normal clothes
- "Mary," "Elizabeth," and "Gabriel" name signs
- Three stools
- Four printed scripts (for Storyteller and three actors)
- Four music stands to hold the scripts (optional)

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hello, everyone! Today I want to tell you about an ordinary girl who did something extraordinary. God had a VERY special mission for her. She might have felt overwhelmed and scared and not quite up to the challenge. But I think you'll see how God used her in a BIG way!

"I've got some voice actors who are going to help us tell this story today. That means they're going to read lines as the different characters to liven things up. (Calling backstage) Come on out, guys!

Voice actors enter, wearing the name signs. They sit on the stools.

**POWER POINT:
SLIDE 1**

Our story starts off in the town of Nazareth

CG: BIBLE STORY SLIDE #1 (NAZARETH)

"Nazareth was a regular, small town full of regular, ordinary people doing regular, ordinary things. In this seemingly normal, everyday, regular type of town was a young woman named Mary.

**POWER POINT:
SLIDE 2**

CG: BIBLE STORY SLIDE #2 (MARY CARRYING A WATER JUG)

"Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph, and she loved God. She probably knew just about everyone in her small town, and she was a normal, everyday young woman. She wasn't a superhero like Wonder Woman or anything like that. She was a regular girl."

GABRIEL APPEARS TO MARY

STORYTELLER: "One regular, ordinary day, something very NOT ordinary happened to Mary. The angel Gabriel appeared before her!"

**POWER POINT:
SLIDE 3**

CG: BIBLE STORY SLIDE #3 (GABRIEL APPEARS, MARY COWERING IN FEAR)

MARY: (Reading from script) "Ahhhh! What's going on?"

STORYTELLER: "Mary was quite afraid, as it's not every day that you see an angel. Gabriel told her . . ."

Open the Bible to Luke 1:28 (NirV) and read.

"The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

Nod to "Gabriel" to say his lines.

GABRIEL: (Reading from script) "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you" (Luke 1:28 NirV).

STORYTELLER: "Mary was really upset. She wondered what in the world was happening! The angel said . . ."

GABRIEL: (Reading from script) "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you" (Luke 1:30 NirV).

GABRIEL APPEARS TO MARY

STORYTELLER: "This must have been a lot for Mary to take in. She was an ordinary girl, after all, and this was NOT ordinary. But Gabriel had a message from God to tell Mary that day."

**POWER POINT:
SLIDE 4**

CG: BIBLE STORY SLIDE #4 (GABRIEL TELLING MARY SHE WILL HAVE A BABY)

GABRIEL: (Reading from script) "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" (Luke 1:31-32 NirV).

**POWER POINT:
SLIDE 5**

CG: BIBLE STORY SLIDE #5 (CLOSE-UP OF MARY LOOKING CONFUSED)

STORYTELLER: "Mary was confused."

Nod to "Mary" to say her lines.

MARY: (Reading from script) "How can this be happening? I'm not married" (paraphrase of Luke 1:34 NIV).

STORYTELLER: "Gabriel told her that the Holy Spirit would make this happen through the power of God. And Gabriel wasn't done. He had one more important bit of news for her."

**POWER POINT:
SLIDE 6**

CG: BIBLE STORY SLIDE #6 (ELIZABETH AND ZECHARIAH)

GABRIEL: (Reading from script) "Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a baby even though she is old and many people thought she'd never have children. But God promised that she would, and He always keeps His promises. She has been pregnant for six months now. She and her husband Zechariah will soon have a baby" (paraphrase of Luke 1:36-37 NIV).

STORYTELLER: "Mary knew this was a big deal. Elizabeth and Zechariah wanted to have children, but everyone pretty much assumed it would never happen because they were so old. But now God was going to give them a baby! Listen to what Mary said next."

**POWER POINT:
SLIDE 7**

CG: BIBLE STORY SLIDE #7 (VIEW BEHIND MARY, LOOKING AT GABRIEL)

MARY: (Reading from script) "May it happen just as you've said. I will serve God" (paraphrase of Luke 1:38 NIV).

MARY VISITS ELIZABETH

STORYTELLER: "After Mary spoke, the angel left her. Mary didn't understand how this was all happening, but she knew that she could trust God. And if God was giving Elizabeth a baby after all these years, she knew that God kept His promises. It was all so overwhelming, but Mary knew that she needed to serve God. If He picked her for this job, she knew that she would be able to do it!"

"She then decided to go visit her relative Elizabeth to see this miracle God had told her about."

**POWER POINT:
SLIDE 8**

CG: BIBLE STORY SLIDE #8 (MARY TALKING TO ELIZABETH, EXCITEDLY)

Nod to "Mary" to say her lines.

MARY: (Reading from her script) "Elizabeth, you won't believe what I have to tell you! I have such big news!"

Nod to "Elizabeth" to say her lines.

ELIZABETH: (Reading from her script) “Mary, the baby just kicked! The baby is just so excited to see you and your . . . baby.”

STORYTELLER: “Whoa. Elizabeth already knew that Mary was going to have a baby! Listen to what else she said.”

ELIZABETH: (Reading from her script) “God has blessed you more than other women. And blessed is the child you will have! But why is God so kind to me? Why has the mother of my Lord come to me? As soon as I heard the sound of your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy. You are a woman God has blessed. You have believed that the Lord would keep his promises to you!” (Luke 1:42-45 NIV).

STORYTELLER: “Not only did Elizabeth know about the baby, she also knew WHO the baby would be. She knew that Mary was carrying the Son of God—Jesus! Mary was filled with emotion. God had chosen HER! She sang these words.”

CG: BIBLE STORY SLIDE #9 (MARY SINGING)

MARY: (Reading from her script—speaking, not singing) “My soul gives glory to the Lord. My spirit delights in God my Savior. He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important. . . . He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him. He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago” (Luke 1:46-47, 54-55 NIV).

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. Then she returned home to her amazing, extraordinary mission: being the mother of the Son of God. She looked forward to seeing how God was going to use her and her Son to save His people. Mary was just an ordinary girl, but God was showing her that He can use ordinary people to do REALLY important things.

“Let’s give a big hand to our voice actors. (To voice actors) Thanks for your help!

Voice actors exit.

“Here’s what we need to remember today.

CG: BOTTOM LINE SLIDE

“Mary probably didn’t feel like she was ready to be the mother of God’s Son. But she was willing to do it because she trusted God. Remember what she said in her song?

Open the Bible to Luke 1:46-48 (NIV) and read.

“My soul gives glory to the Lord. My spirit delights in God my Savior. He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important.

**POWER POINT:
SLIDE 9**

**POWER POINT:
BOTTOM LINE**

"You might not feel like you're important enough or good enough to do what you know God wants you to do. You might not feel like you're smart or talented enough. But the truth is, God can use you to meet the needs of the people around you. [Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others' needs.

"As we continue with our Undercover Christmas, I want you to remember that. God can use YOU to do big and important things. He can use you to show compassion. Let's pray."

"Dear God, thank You for this amazing story about Mary. Thank You for showing us how You can use ordinary, everyday people like her and like ALL of us here in this room. Help us to trust You like she did. Help us to show compassion and meet the needs of the people You've put in our lives. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

WORSHIP

SUPPLIES:

- Worship Music

WORSHIP LEADER: Wow, today has been a lot of fun already. I'm excited to sing with all of you. A life with Jesus is like no other. Let's sing and celebrate today that with Him we are fully alive! C'mon, let's sing.

CG: OH LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

CG: INTO ORDINARY DAYS

**POWER POINT:
MUSIC**

SERVE

7:30PM - 8:00PM - SMALL GROUP



FLASHLIGHT LIMBO

SUPPLIES:

- Flashlight

DIRECTIONS:

Guide the kids to sit in a circle with you. Starting with the kid on your left, tell kids to go around the circle and each say one sentence of something that happened in today's Bible story. Encourage them to try to go in order of what happened. After they've retold the story, instruct kids to line up to your left. Turn out the lights (if possible), and turn on your flashlight. Hold the flashlight at your chest level with the light shining straight out from you, as if the light beam is a limbo pole. If any kids don't know what limbo is, you will need to explain it and have one kid demonstrate. Explain that you want someone to say one reason why Mary might not seem to be the most qualified person for the job of being the mother of God's Son (very young, not from an important family, from a small town, etc.). After they say it, everyone will limbo under the light beam. Then someone else will say another reason, you will lower the light by a few inches, and they will limbo again. Continue this until they can't think of any more reasons.

"It seemed like Mary had a lot of things going against her, but God used her anyway! [Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others' needs. (Move the flashlight beam so it's higher than all kids' heads when they're standing up straight.) Let's limbo again! (Let kids limbo.) And again! Do it faster! (Allow kids to run under the light beam several times.) Okay, you can sit down now. "God used Mary, because He knew she was the right person for the job. He knew her talents and strengths. He knew her likes and dislikes. And He knew they were exactly what Jesus needed in a mother. God also knows everything about You. He knows your talents, strengths, likes, and dislikes, and He knows that you can meet others' needs in amazing ways just like He used Mary. [Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a way God has used your skills and likes to meet others' needs in an amazing way.) Say the Bottom Line with me: [Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others' needs!"

PRAY AND DISMISS

SUPPLIES:

- Kids' "Compassion Profiles"

DIRECTIONS:

Hand out the profiles again. Instruct kids to take a minute to silently pray. They should ask God to help them use their talents and likes to meet others' needs. Encourage them to ask God to show them practical ways they can do so. Close with the prayer