



SUPPLIES

The following items will be provided for you to use with your kids during the Small Group segments:

- Miniature candy cane
- Paper microphone
- Markers
- Sheets of blank paper (one per child)
- Take-home sheets (one per child)

SMALL GROUP: GRADE 4-5

Week 1

MARY ORDINARY

Key Concept

God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things!

Bible Summary

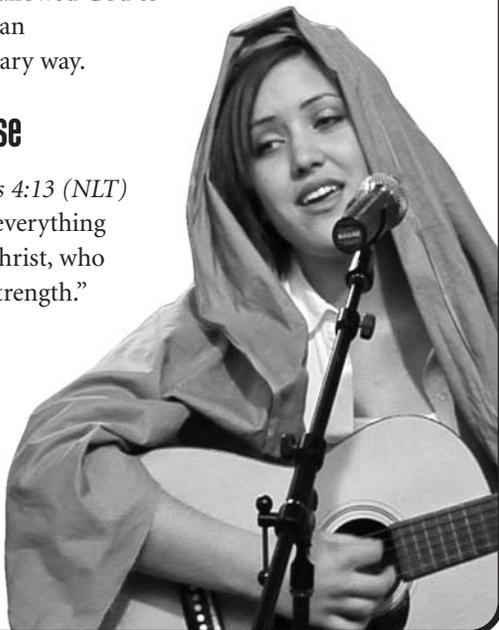
Luke 1:26-38

God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary she would have a baby and the child would be God's Son. Though Mary was afraid at first, she listened to the angel and allowed God to use her in an extraordinary way.

Bible Verse

Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

"I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."



LEADER PREPARATION

Thanks for choosing to serve with us. The supplies listed above are provided for you, but there are some important things you can do in advance. Prior to the lesson, prepare your mind by reviewing the material and prepare your heart by praying for the children God will place in your Small Group.

SMALL GROUP CONNECTION

This short connection time happens right after the Welcome and Introduction. When instructed, turn to your Small Group and engage them in conversation. The goal is to make sure everyone feels comfortable and welcome. You will pass around the candy cane to help control which child talks. Be sure everyone gets a chance to share. Keep an eye on the countdown video, which will signal when it's time to refocus on the Teacher. Don't waste any time moving your Small Group; simply stay seated in the Large Group area.

LEADER: I am so glad you are all here! Today, I brought a candy cane with me. We're not going to eat it, but we are going to pass it around the circle. When it's your turn to hold the candy cane, you can tell us your name and the Christmas present you most want this year!

When we're finished here, we are going to learn about an ordinary person who did something really great—or extraordinary!

SMALL GROUP SHARING

This sharing time happens right after the Teacher's Personal Application Story. When instructed, turn again to your Small Group. This time, ask them to share their personal stories. Give as many children as possible a chance to share. Keep an eye on the countdown video, which will signal when it's time to refocus on the Teacher.

LEADER: Do you remember what the tag on the gift said? [*Kids respond.*] It said, "God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things." What do you think that means? [*Kids respond.*] Those are great answers! Ordinary people doing extraordinary things means everyday, average, normal people doing really big, incredible, amazing things. Can you think of a time you did something extraordinary? Maybe you scored the winning goal at your soccer game, or maybe you painted a beautiful picture, or maybe finished all of your homework without being asked. God helps all of us do extraordinary things!

In just a few minutes we are going to see a very special girl being interviewed on the red carpet. She is going to talk about an extraordinary thing she did with God's help. Right now, I'm going to interview you on





the red carpet. [Take out the paper microphone.] When I hold the microphone up to you, tell me about a time you did something really extraordinary! [Allow kids to share, one at a time.]

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

This activity time happens at the end of the Large Group teaching. If your Small Group has a designated seating area somewhere else in the room, move them now. If not, simply stay seated together in the Large Group area.

The following activities will engage your group for 10-15 minutes. It's okay if you don't complete every activity; the priority is helping your kids process and apply what they learned today. Parents will pick up their children from your group at the end of the class.

>> REVIEW QUESTIONS

LEADER: Today we saw how an ordinary girl did something extraordinary with God's help. God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus, God's Son! Mary was just an ordinary person—a young girl—and yet God chose her for an extraordinary job. I'm going to ask you some questions from the story. If you know the answer, you can jump to your feet and tell it to me. Are you ready?

1. What was the name of the young girl in the story? (*Mary.*)
2. True or False: Mary grew up as a peasant girl. (*True.*)
3. What was the name of the man Mary was going to marry? (*Joseph.*)
4. What made Mary extraordinary? (*Her love and devotion to God.*)
5. Who told Mary she was going to have a son? (*An angel named Gabriel.*)
6. How do you think Mary felt when she saw the angel? (*Afraid.*)
7. How do you think you would feel if you saw an angel? (*Encourage kids to give their own answers.*)
8. True or False: When Mary heard the news that she was going to be Jesus' mother, she screamed and ran away. (*False.*)
9. What did Mary do when she heard the news? (*She did what God asked her to do.*)



That's an extraordinary thing Mary did. Even though she was afraid, she trusted God and obeyed what He asked her to do. Let's practice saying our Bible verse together. *[Repeat the verse aloud with the kids several times.]*

"I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

»» **COMIC STRIP** **ACTIVITY**

LEADER: *[Hold up a piece of blank paper.]* This week we can do extraordinary things with God's help. Watch as I fold this paper into four squares. *[Fold the paper in half width-wise, and then again length-wise. Unfold it and show the four squares.]* I'm going to give you each a piece of paper to fold, because we are going to make comic strips! *[Give each child a piece of blank paper and encourage them to fold it.]* This week, you can do extraordinary things at home, at school, at church, while you are playing sports, or even while you are practicing your instrument. Maybe you can eat lunch with a kid who doesn't have anyone to eat lunch with, or maybe you can tell the truth to your parents when it's really hard to do it.

Turn your paper like this. *[Turn the paper to a landscape orientation.]* With the markers, make a comic strip by drawing a picture in each box that tells the story of you doing something extraordinary this week. For example: if you want to do something extraordinary at school, you could draw a picture in the first box of yourself praying and asking God for strength. In the second box, you could draw a picture of yourself at school with a friend who is teasing you. In the third box, you could draw a picture of yourself thinking about what to do, and in the fourth box, you could draw a picture of yourself giving your friend a hug instead of teasing him or her back. That would be an extraordinary thing for you to do! *[Encourage children to draw their comic strips and ask them to discuss their pictures.]*



CLOSING PRAYER

End your time by praying for the children in your Small Group. You can simply pray the prayer below or ask the children for specific prayer requests.

LEADER: Dear God, thank You for giving Mary the strength to do something very extraordinary. We are thankful for the Christmas story and that You sent Your Son, Jesus. Please give us strength this week to do great things for You. Thank You, God. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

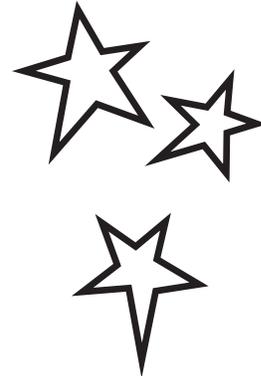
Give each child a take-home sheet and continue to engage them in conversation until their parents arrive.





If you've reviewed the detailed lesson and are comfortable with what you will say and do, simply take this Quick Script with you as a reminder for each segment.

SMALL GROUP: GRADE 4-5
Week 1 MARY ORDINARY



QUICK SCRIPT

• Small Group Connection

Pass a candy cane around the circle and have kids share their name and most desired Christmas gift.

• Small Group Sharing

Pass the paper microphone around the circle and encourage kids to share about a time they did something extraordinary.

• Small Group Activity: Review and Comic Strips

Ask the review questions listed below. Then, show kids how to fold a blank sheet of paper in quarters and create a comic strip of themselves doing something extraordinary.

1. What was the name of the young girl in the story? (*Mary.*)
2. True or False: Mary grew up as a peasant girl. (*True.*)
3. What was the name of the man Mary was going to marry? (*Joseph.*)
4. What made Mary extraordinary? (*Her love and devotion to God.*)

5. Who told Mary she was going to have a son? (*An angel named Gabriel.*)
6. How do you think Mary felt when she saw the angel? (*Afraid.*)
7. How do you think you would feel if you saw an angel? (*Encourage kids to give their own answers.*)
8. True or False: When Mary heard the news that she was going to be Jesus' mother, she screamed and ran away. (*False.*)
9. What did Mary do when she heard the news? (*She did what God asked her to do.*)

• Closing

Pray for the kids and give each one a take-home sheet.

