



SUPPLIES

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

- Miniature candy cane
- Paper microphone
- Week 1 Star Ornament (one per child)
- Decorations (may include glitter glue, confetti pieces and glue sticks, and/or Christmas stickers)
- Take-home sheets (one per child)

SMALL GROUP: GRADE K-1

Week 1

MARY ORDINARY

Key Concept

God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things!

Bible Summary

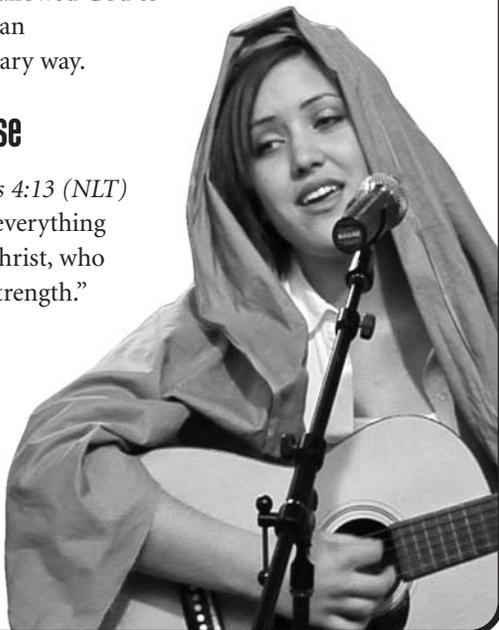
Luke 1:26-38

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 activity 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.

» STAR CRAFT AND REVIEW QUESTIONS

LEADER: Today we are going to decorate special star ornaments. [Hold up Star Ornament.] Who can tell me who is inside the star? [Kids respond.] That's right! It's Mary. Who is she holding? [Kids respond.] It's Baby Jesus! 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!

You can decorate your star like this. [Show the kids how they can use the provided supplies to decorate their stars.] I am going to give each of you an ornament now. While you work on decorating it, I'm going to ask you a few questions about our lesson today.

[Give each child an ornament and help them with the decorations as needed. Ask the following questions as you work.]

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

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.

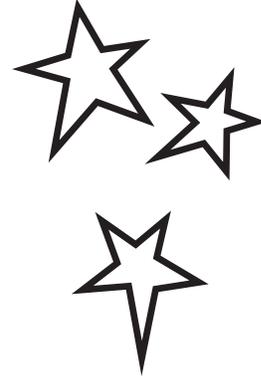
Give each child a take-home sheet and continue to engage them in conversation until their parents arrive.





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 K-1
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: Star Craft and Review

Give each child a star ornament and show them how to decorate it. As they decorate, ask the review questions listed below.

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.

