



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

FOLLOW THE
Star

BIG IDEA

God gives direction
to guide us.

THE BIBLE

Mary is visited by the Angel:
Luke 1:26-38

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Follow the Path
- **ACTIVITY** | Paper Plate Angels

TEACHING TIME

- **MUSIC** | Worship Time
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God gives us direction to guide us.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Luke 1:26-38, 47, 49
- **ACTIVITY** | Story Retell
- **PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- **DISCUSSION** | Snack and Discussion
- **ACTIVITY** | Circle Time
- **ACTIVITY** | Carry the Gift
- **MEMORY VERSE** | John 3:16

PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page of the Week
- **ACTIVITY** | Care for the Baby
- **ACTIVITY** | Star Stamps



WEEK 1

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

FOLLOW THE
Star

BIG IDEA

God gives direction
to guide us.

THE BIBLE

Mary is visited by the Angel:
Luke 1:26-38

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Follow the Path

- Welcome! We're starting a new series called Follow the Star, and we will be learning about how people in the Bible learned to follow God.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, use floor tape to make a winding path from the door to the other end of the room. Lead the kids along the path, and choose different ways to move, such as hopping, skipping, or crawling. Then choose a kid to be the leader and walk the group down the path.
- It was fun to move in different ways. The leader gave us direction. Today, we'll learn about someone who got direction from God.

ACTIVITY | Paper Plate Angels

- We're going to hear about an angel in our story today. Let's make our own angels.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids paper plates. For older kids, let them use safety scissors to cut a out a deep triangle from their plate, like a slice of pie. For younger kids, cut the triangles for them. Help the kids cut out a circle from a piece of white paper, which will be the angle's face, and glue it to the middle of the paper plate, at the tip of the triangle. Then glue the triangle you cut out to the plate, with the tip of the triangle coming out of the angel's face. Give the kids markers and glitter glue to decorate their angel. Help them draw a face on their angel.
- We can use these angels to act out the story we'll hear today, and even at home.

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | Worship Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Spend some time singing with your preschoolers. You can sing any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "Born is the King" by Hillsong Kids and, "Away in a Manger" by Go Fish.

THE BIG IDEA | God gives direction to guide us.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help the Big Idea to be memorable and fun when you introduce it to the kids when you:
- Ask the kids to reach up into the sky as high as they can and point up at the stars as they say the Big Idea.
- Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
- Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
- Write it on a piece of paper and hide it inside a Bible. Have one of the kids find it in the Bible. When it's found, read it to the kids.
- This week's Big Idea: **God gives direction to guide us.**

BIBLE STORY | Luke 1:26-38, 47, 49

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and read it to your preschoolers.
- **Have you ever gotten some exciting news from someone?** An angel of God came to visit Mary to tell her some very exciting news. **What news did the angel bring Mary?** The angel said she would have a baby.
- **Was Mary afraid when the angel talked to her?** Yes, she was! The angel told Mary not to be afraid.
- **Who was the special baby Mary would have?** It was Jesus! The angel told Mary the baby was not an ordinary baby—Jesus was special because Jesus was the Son of God.
- Mary told the angel wanted to do what God had planned.
- **How do you think Mary felt when she knew that she would have a special baby—Jesus?**
- **Who else did the angel say was going to have a baby?** The angel also told Mary her relative, Elizabeth, would have a baby too.
- When Mary heard she would have baby Jesus, she was so happy she sang a song of thanks to God.
- God guided Mary and showed her the plan to send Jesus to Earth through her! God gave Mary the angel and her relatives to guide her. God gives us people to help lead and guide us too.
- **Who helps guide you to God?** We can trust God and thank God for giving us people to guide us.

ACTIVITY | Story Retell

- Let's see how well we remember our story.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the Mary printable (in your Week 1 folder). Cut the figures out before church, or let the older kids help you cut them out using safety scissors. Ask each of the kids to hold their Mary in one hand and their angel craft in the other hand. Have them hide the angel behind their back at the beginning of the story and then put both Mary and the angel in front of them to act out the story as you retell it.

- Let's see how well we remember this great story from the Bible! **Can you hold up your Mary?** Mary was in a town called Nazareth when the angel came to talk to her. You can show how Mary was afraid by shaking the Mary. **Can you hold up your angel?** The angel told Mary not to be afraid.
- **What was the good news that the angel told Mary?** The angel told Mary she would have a special baby named Jesus.
- Mary was very happy. Maybe she jumped for joy. Mary sang a happy song when she learned she would have baby Jesus.

PRAYER

- Let's spend time talking with God in prayer.
- Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus as a baby. Thank you, God for being with Mary and for being with us. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

DISCUSSION | Snack and Discussion

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out a snack to all of your preschoolers and ask them to sit and listen while they eat. Your discussion will be more effective when they're busy sitting and snacking!*
- **Who did the angel visit?** (Mary.)
- **What did the angel tell Mary?** (Mary would have a baby named, Jesus.)
- **Would you be scared if you talked to an angel?**
- **Who else was going to have a baby?** (Her relative, Elizabeth.)

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Bring a baby doll to the circle and tell the kids to say the Big Idea when they hold the baby doll. Say the Big Idea along with each kid and then have them pass the baby doll along to the next kid.*
- One way God chose to be with us was by sending us Jesus.
- You can have a turn holding the baby and pretending it is baby Jesus.
- The Big Idea is: **God gives direction to guide us.** That means God tells us which way to go.

ACTIVITY | Carry the Gift

- We are going to play a game where everyone will need a partner. You will stay right by your friend to remind you how God will stay right by you and guide you.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have the kids get into pairs and give the pairs a small blanket to hold out between them. They will use the blanket to carry a gift bag from one side of the room to the other.*
- You needed your friend to stay right by you to carry that bag on top of the blanket. God will stay right with you wherever you go.

MEMORY VERSE | John 3:16

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder for ideas on how to help your preschoolers memorize Bible verses. Here are the hand motions for this month's memory verse . . .*

GOD (point up to the sky)
SO LOVED (hug yourself)
THE WORLD (spread arms out in a big circle)
THAT HE GAVE (open hands as if giving a gift)
HIS ONLY SON (pretend to rock a baby in your arms).

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page of the Week

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid a Coloring Page, plus markers or crayons. As they color, remind them that the angel told Mary that God would be with her and she would have baby Jesus.

ACTIVITY | Care for the Baby

- The angel told Mary that she would have a special baby named Jesus.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Put some baby blankets, baby toys, wet wipes, and baby dolls on a table for the kids to pretend to clean the baby with the wet wipes. Talk with them about how to take care of a baby and ask them how they imagine Mary took care of baby Jesus.

ACTIVITY | Star Stamps

- This month, we're talking about stars and lights. Let's play with star stampers and make pretty pictures.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids star shaped rubber stamps or a foam star sticker stuck onto a block to make star prints on paper. Use washable ink pads for easy cleanup.

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.