



WEEK 1

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

We can celebrate God's plan.

THE BIBLE

Mary and Joseph: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-24;
(Colossians 1:15-20)

LARGE GROUP TIME

Champions meet in the Youth Room for worship.

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Guess the Travel Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split the group into two teams and tell them to come up with different places from around the country or around the world. Tell them to guess how much time it would take to travel from place to place by plane. Have a device with internet access handy so you can look up the distances. Let each group share their guesses and whichever side guesses the closest distance wins.

POLL | Planning a Trip

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids the following question and tell them to vote on which answer they identify with.
- **How do you feel about planning a trip?**
 - Excited and ready for an adventure!
 - Nervous if I've never been there.
 - Why leave home?

THE BIG IDEA | We can celebrate God's plan.

- **What big holiday is coming up this month?** That's right, it's Christmas! That's why every week this month, we are going to CELEBRATE!



- **How many of you celebrate when you have to. . . go to the dentist or the doctor? Go to school? Clean your room?**
- Usually, these are not reasons to celebrate. But even if we don't feel like they are good things at first, when we see what happens when we follow through, we can be happy with the outcome!
- Maybe going to the dentist or doctor might be scary, but isn't it better to be as healthy as you can be?
- Maybe going to school might not be exciting, but isn't it good that you've been learning new things?
- Maybe cleaning your room might seem annoying, but isn't easier to find your things when your room is tidy?
- Today's Big Idea: **We can celebrate God's plan!**
- When we celebrate God's plan, we can see God's purpose is greater than any plan we could have for ourselves. And when we follow the plan, the result is always a reason to celebrate!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | Main Event, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#). ([Main Event Elementary Week 1 on Vimeo](#))

SCRIPTURE | Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-24

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask two kids to play Mary and Joseph, and one to play the angel. You could add costumes and props for more added fun! Prompt them to do the actions while you read aloud. The following is one way you can paraphrase today's Scripture.
- Before Mary and Joseph were Jesus' parents, they were living pretty normal lives. They probably got up and did normal stuff: brushed their teeth, ate their meals, laughed with friends, cleaned the house, and went to sleep.
- That is, until everything changed. An angel appeared and spoke to Mary and told her God's great plan for all people: that Jesus would come to Earth in the form of a little baby! God wanted Jesus to be on Earth, and God wanted Mary to be in on this great plan. Of course, Mary was shocked. She might have even been really scared. She wasn't married and wondered what people would think if she had a baby already. But she chose to follow and celebrate this great plan.
- Some time later, Joseph, who was now engaged to Mary, was visited by an angel in a dream while he was sleeping. Joseph was worried about Mary and the baby. But the angel told Joseph that Mary's baby was indeed God's Son, so he didn't need to be afraid!
- Think of God's plan like a party. God invites us to follow the plan, and we can choose to join in or not. Sometimes, it's hard, and we aren't sure how to get there, but God is with us and will show us the way.



QUESTION | Maps and Angels

- What do you think God's messengers to Mary and Joseph and maps have in common?

ACTIVITY | Create Your Own Fun Flyer

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass out multi-colored papers for the kids to create their own amusement park/carnival flyers with along with crayons and other supplies.*
- **How does your family plan for a day at an amusement park or carnival? What do you pack? What do you wear? What rides or foods do you hit first?**
- Thinking about following God's plan should be like planning for a fun day like that! It is something we can be excited about and celebrate.
- **What do you think are God's plans for you?** It's okay if you don't know. **What can we do to find out what God's plans for us are?**

SCRIPTURE | Colossians 1:15-20

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read the passage with your group.*
- **If Jesus is the firstborn of all creation, what does that make you and me?** Yeah! We are part of Jesus' family! And as part of Jesus' family, we try to live in such a way that our lives and the choices we make point back to God.
- **What are some ways your actions and decisions point to God?**
- In verse 17, it mentions in Jesus, all things are held together. All of this was true even when Jesus was a little baby!

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Why Do We Use Maps?

- When we use maps and apps with directions, they guide us and show us the way. We tell it where we want to go, and if we follow the steps given, we will arrive at our destination. Sometimes, that's an amusement park, and we are so excited to get there!
- But even when the steps along the way don't make sense, we trust that they are leading us in the right direction. When we celebrate God's plan, we eagerly wait for all the ways we can be a part of God's story!

PRAYER

- God, thank You for asking us to be a part of Your story like Mary and Joseph. Please help us to be ready when you show us what our next steps with You are. We want to celebrate Your plan and be a part of Your story. Thank You for letting us join You every time You guide us and speak to us. In Jesus' name, amen!

ACTIVITY | Let's Celebrate!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before group time, prepare a large garbage bag filled with inflated balloons of all sizes (make sure you get some help to prepare this because the more*



MAIN EVENT | WEEK 1 ELEMENTARY LESSON

balloons, the better!). Play some upbeat music and empty the bag where the kids are and let them have fun tossing the balloons around!

MEMORY VERSE | Words from the Word

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids to read the verse one word at a time, passing the Bible to the next kid after reading one word. Encourage them to do this as quickly as possible.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- How did Mary feel after learning what the great plan would be?
- How did Mary respond?
- What did the angel say to Joseph?
- Read Colossians 1:17. How does this verse show that Jesus was God's great plan?
- Is it sometimes difficult to do what God asks?
- How can we be more like Mary and Joseph and follow God?
- How is God with us? Think of a few different ways!

ACTIVITY | Plan the Perfect Day

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid the planner printable and something to write with. You could choose to also provide [stickers](#) they can use to decorate your page.
- **What would your perfect day look like?** Write out the things you would do on that day!
- Sometimes our plans might not work out, but God's plans ALWAYS do! That's why we can celebrate God's plan!

MEMORY VERSE | Luke 1:46-47 (NIV)