

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



GOD CAN DO EVERYTHING

📖 Luke 1:26-38; Luke 1:57-66 The virgin Mary

In today's session we meet the angel Gabriel again as he visits Mary and shares the good news that she is going to give birth to Jesus, the son of God. When Mary questions how this could happen, the angel says, 'God can do everything!' (v37). We will also follow the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth and see how their obedience to God prepared the way for Jesus.

Each child will need:

➔ Paper plate, craft items to decorate, scissors, Christmas wrapping ribbon, sticky tape, glue, pens/pencils – see Action It section

You will need:

➔ Headphones (not ear buds), something to play music on, a playlist or CD of familiar Christmas songs – see Start It section

Start It

Play a game of Guess the Christmas Song. One child wears the headphones and listens to a Christmas song. They then hum the tune out loud for the rest of the group to guess. Once the song is guessed, a different child wears the headphones for another song.

This video might help you with the playlist. There are 21 song snippets – though they are very short!

Christmas song quiz by Love to Sing (4 mins 22 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eaP_p_Gspk

Sing It

● **Say:** In today's story the angel Gabriel visits Mary and says, 'God can do everything!' Our song for today talks about God's ability to do anything. At the start of the clip there's a chance to learn the actions, and you will need a partner.

'God can do anything' (including how-to actions) by Duggie Dug Dug (3 mins 20 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwYJ-HHa3AO

Tell It

● **Say:** Last week we met two important characters who struggled to believe that God could answer their prayer.

Ask: What were their names and what do you remember about them?

● **Say:** Elizabeth and Zechariah had prayed for a baby for a very long time. When Zechariah was burning incense in the Temple, an angel appeared and told him that Elizabeth would give birth to a son. Zechariah struggled to believe it could ever happen.

Ask: What happened next?

- 🗨️ **Say:** Zechariah spent the whole of Elizabeth's pregnancy in silence, as he could not say a word.
- 🗨️ **Say:** Today we will find out what happened when the same angel came to visit a young girl named Mary. The angel shared the good news about Elizabeth's baby, but he also had some news for Mary.

Video

Gabriel visits Mary by Superbook (1 min 8 secs)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1OLLwtCqtM>

Ask:

- ➔ What was the angel's news for Mary?
- ➔ What did we discover about Jesus from the angel Gabriel?

- 🗨️ **Say:** Mary responded to the angel saying, 'I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!' (v38)

Ask: Do you think Mary's willingness to follow God's plan was brave? If so, why?

- 🗨️ **Say:** Mary was willing to say yes to God and follow his plan for her life. As we continue through the story in the book of Luke, we find out that Elizabeth and Zechariah also carefully followed what God asked them to do.

Read:

'When it was time for Elizabeth to give birth, she had a boy. Her neighbours and relatives heard how good the Lord was to her, and they rejoiced.

'When the baby was eight days old, they came to circumcise him. They wanted to name him Zechariah because this was his father's name. But his mother said, "No! He will be named John."

'The people said to Elizabeth, "But no one in your family has this name!" Then they made signs to his father, "What would you like to name him?"

'Zechariah asked for something to write on. Then he wrote, "His name is John."

'Everyone was surprised. Then Zechariah could talk again. He began to praise God. And all their neighbours became alarmed. In all the mountains of Judea people continued talking about all these things. The people who heard about these things wondered about them. They thought, "What will this child be?" They said this because the Lord was with him.'

— (Luke 1:57-66 ICB)

Ask: At what point was Zechariah able to start talking again?

- 🗨️ **Say:** Elizabeth and Zechariah followed what God had asked them to do and named their baby boy John. Let's find out more about John and the special role he had in the life of Jesus.

Video

God's Story: John the Baptist by Crossroads Kids' Club (4 mins 4 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NMHOLPWeTM

- 🗨️ **Say:** John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus and let people know that the Messiah was coming. At the start of the clip, we saw the prophet Isaiah sharing good news about a coming Messiah. Our memory verse reminds us of that good news. See if you can remember the memory verse and let's say it together.

**'For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.**

**And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'**

— (Isaiah 9:6 NIV)

Action It

● **Say:** The angel Gabriel came to visit Zechariah and Mary and promised them that something amazing was going to happen.

Paper plate angel

● **Say:** Today we are going to make a Christmas angel decoration for you to hang up at home as a reminder that 'God can do everything!' (Luke 1:37)

Demonstrate how to make an angel out of a paper plate. Here is one method:

Paper plate angel (crafts for kids) by Variety of Ruth Roongtawan (1 min 17 secs)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=_pX8iFJcyQA

On the angel write 'God can do everything!' Children may also wish to decorate with more craft supplies and add a loop on the back from Christmas wrapping ribbon, so they can hang it up.

● **Say:** Mary, Zechariah and Elizabeth followed God's lead and believed that he could do amazing things in their lives. Every time you see the angel, let it remind you that God can do amazing things in your life as well.

Pray It

● **Say:** Zechariah and Elizabeth prayed for a baby and eventually their prayer was answered. It took a long time for the answer to come, and it was understandable that Zechariah was so surprised when it did.

Ask:

- ➔ When you pray, do you believe that God will answer?
- ➔ Is there anything that you have been praying for, for a long time? If you feel comfortable, then share it with the group.

Give the children an opportunity to share their prayer requests. Encourage them to pray for each other during the next week and, after you have reminded them of the message on their paper plate angels, bring the time of prayer to a close.

Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

ADVENT
SESSION 02

GOD CAN DO EVERYTHING

 Luke 1:26-38; Luke 1:57-66 The virgin Mary

FOR ME

TOGETHER



Pray

In this week's session we shared some of the things we are currently praying for. Think carefully about the different members of your group and jot down their prayer requests. Spend time asking God to do amazing things in the lives of your friends. Read the verse on your paper plate angel and remember that 'God can do everything!' (Luke 1:37)



Share

This week's song talked about God's ability to do anything at all. During the session you tried out the actions and had a go at learning the song. To do this you needed a partner!

Find someone at home to watch the video with you and see if you can learn the song together.



Song for the week

'God can do anything' (including how-to actions) by Duggie Dug Dug
www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwYJ-HHa3A0



Memory verse

'For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'
— (Isaiah 9:6 NIV)

KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

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