



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- One kid volunteer to be the “guesser”
- Christmas attire for the Host (same as last week)
- Decorated Christmas tree on stage
- Four “Christmas Corners” signs (LGV; either print onto 11x17 paper or draw onto poster board)
- Tape
- Blindfold (Christmas print, if possible)
- Three to five candy canes

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- “Main Title” from *Elf* (Original Motion Picture Score)

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Compassion Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- “Christmas Corners” Signs (printable)

What You Do:

- Create the four “Christmas Corners” signs. Either print them on 11x17 paper or use the LGVs as a guide to draw them on poster board. Examples can be found in the folder labeled “1812_K3Images_11x17Poster.”

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Pre-selected actress (must be female)
- Long piece of rope and clothespins to create a costume clothesline (see “What You Do”)
- Mary costume (female biblical costume with a long brown or black wig)
- Gabriel costume (angel costume or white robe with a headband halo)
- Elizabeth costume (female biblical costume with a gray wig)
- Prop bin
- Handheld mic
- Pillow

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Pre-select an adult to be the actress. This could be a Small Group Leader, a Worship Leader, or anyone who can act out the characters and practice with the script ahead of time.
- Hang a clothesline long enough to hold three adult costumes. Be sure to hang it at the right height, so that your actress can stand behind it and look as though she’s wearing the costumes.
- Hang the costumes in order from left to right (if looking at the stage): Mary, Gabriel, Elizabeth.
- Put the wigs and angel halo in the prop bin.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Every Beat
- Unshakeable Love

Someone Like You

Bible Story: Someone Like You (Gabriel appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-56 (Supporting: Luke 1:5-25)*

Bottom Line: God can use anyone to meet others' needs.

Memory Verse: "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." *John 3:16 (NirV)*

Life App: Compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else's need.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: *Theme Slide*

Host enters wearing the same Christmas attire as last week.

Opener

HOST: "Hello, everyone! I'm so glad to see you. Christmas is coming fast, and let me tell you, I am READY! I'm celebrating early because I just love Christmas so much.

"There's a lot to be excited about at Christmas—like treats, presents, and family time. The BEST part of all is that we remember what God did for us at Christmas by sending us His Son, Jesus. He showed us some big-time compassion!

CG: *Compassion Slide*

"Compassion is caring enough to do something about someone else's need.

"God knew we needed a Savior—a Rescuer. That's why He sent us Jesus. We can follow His example, too. We can show compassion to the people He's put in our lives. ANYONE can show compassion. You, me, your Small Group Leader—anyone! Our top-secret Undercover Christmas mission is to show compassion everywhere we go.

"One fun way to do that is by sharing our Christmas joy with the world. Are you feeling Christmassy? *(Pause for response.)* Good! Well, then let's play a fun Christmas game I like to call 'Christmas Corners'!

SFX: *"Main Title" from Elf (Original Motion Picture Score)*

"If you've ever played 'Four Corners' before, this game is kind of like that—but it's Christmassy! First, go ahead and grab a partner. You'll stay with this partner the whole time. If you want to have a group of three, that's cool too.

"If Buddy the Elf has taught me anything, it's that there are four Christmas food groups.

"Candy.

Hold up the (Christmas) candy poster.

"Candy canes.

Hold up the candy cane poster.

"Candy corns.

Hold up the candy corn poster.

"And syrup.

Hold up the syrup poster.

"Those are our four corners!

Tape the posters in the four corners.

"Candy . . . candy canes . . . candy corns . . . and syrup.

"Each time the music starts, you and your partner need to SILENTLY choose a corner to go to. We'll also have a guesser who will be blindfolded. When the music stops, our guesser will call out one of the four corners. If he or she calls out YOUR corner, you've got to go back to your seat and sit down. We'll keep playing until we have one winning pair!

"Raise your hand if you want to be our guesser. (*Pause for response.*) Let's see whose birthday is closest to Christmas. If your birthday is in December and you want to be the guesser, keep your hand up.

Ask the kids with their hands up when their birthdays are. Choose whoever is closest to Christmas. (Make sure to pick a kid who actually wants to be the guesser.) In case of a tie, do a quick round of rock/paper/scissors.

(*To the guesser*) "All right, [guesser's name]. Let's get you blindfolded.

Put a blindfold on the guesser.

"When you want the music to start, say, 'Smiling's my favorite,' just like Buddy. When the music stops, I'll ask you to call out a corner. You'll choose candy, candy canes, candy corns, or syrup.

(To audience) “Is everyone ready to choose a corner? *(To the guesser)* All right, [guesser’s name]. Go ahead and say, ‘Smiling’s my favorite!’”

GUESSER: “Smiling’s my favorite!”

SFX: “*Main Title*” from Elf (Original Motion Picture Score)

Keep an eye out for any kids that don’t have a partner, and join them with another pair. When all the kids have chosen a corner, stop the music.

HOST: “All right, [guesser’s name]. Which corner do you choose?”

Get a response and instruct all the kids in that corner to sit down.

Keep playing rounds until you have one winning pair. As you get down to just a few pairs, tell them each pair needs to pick a different corner.

“That was so fun! Congratulations to our winning pair and to our awesome guesser, [guesser’s name].

Give candy canes to the winners and guesser.

“Everyone head back to your regular place and stand up, because it’s time for us to sing to God together!”

Announcements

Use this as an example of what to say. Make it your own and help the kids feel welcomed. Then take a moment to share any/all announcements.

HOST: “I’m so excited to be here with all of you today and get a little crazy! If it’s your first time here, I want to welcome you and I would love to have a chance to meet you, get a high five and show you around. Here at Mission, we believe that this is a place for you and you belong here no matter who you are or what you believe. Mission is for YOU!

I have just a few announcements for you all today...

Share any/all announcements.

Now let’s all stand up, get close, give someone a high five and let’s sing and worship together!

Host exits and Worship Leader enters.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “Thank you, *[Name of Host]*. Let’s get up and get loud as we sing and dance for who God is and what he’s done for us!

Every Beat

WORSHIP LEADER: “That was amazing! (*Take a moment to say something about the next song*). So let’s give everything we have and worship God together!

Unshakeable Love

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! (*Hold up Bible.*) Today’s story is about someone who, in many ways, was very ordinary—just like you or me. This very ordinary person was chosen by God to do something very, VERY important. We learn about her in the third book of the New Testament of the Bible called Luke. It was written by a person named—you guessed it—LUKE! He learned all about the life of Jesus and the people who followed Jesus and wrote it down for people to know the truth about Jesus. He tells us that this very ordinary person was a girl named Mary.”

Actress enters. She puts on the brown/black wig and stands behind the Mary costume on the clothesline.

ANGELIC VISIT

STORYTELLER: “Mary was a young woman who lived in a town called Nazareth over 2,000 years ago. She probably spent most of her time helping her mother take care of their home, preparing meals for the family, and washing the clothes. One day, Mary was going about her daily activities when something incredible happened. An angel showed up at her house! Everybody say, ‘Whaaaaat?’”

KIDS: “Whaaaaat?”

Actress takes off the wig, puts on the halo, and stands behind the angel costume on the clothesline.

STORYTELLER: “That’s right! An actual, real, live angel named Gabriel showed up to talk to Mary. I don’t know about you, but if an actual angel showed up in my living room out of nowhere, I’d probably flip out! Then the angel started TALKING. Everybody say, ‘Whaaaaat?’”

KIDS: “Whaaaaat?”

STORYTELLER: “It’s true! This is what the angel said to Mary.”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:28 (NirV) and hand it to the actress. Hold up the handheld mic for her.

ACTRESS (as ANGEL): “*The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you.*”

STORYTELLER: “Mary was, understandably, a little frightened. She wondered why the angel had come.”

BIG NEWS

STORYTELLER: “But the angel said this to her.”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:30-32 (NirV) and hand it to the actress. Hold up the handheld mic for her.

ACTRESS (as ANGEL): “*Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God.*”

STORYTELLER: “WHOA. Did you hear that? The angel told Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God! And that wasn’t all. You see, Mary had a cousin named Elizabeth.

Actress takes off the halo, puts on the gray wig, and stands behind the Elizabeth costume on the clothesline.

“Elizabeth was much older than Mary. The angel said that even though Elizabeth was older, she was going to have a baby, because what God says will always come true (*paraphrase of Luke 1:36-37*).

“Mary caught her breath and tried to take it all in.

Actress takes off the gray wig, puts on the brown/black wig, and stands behind the Mary costume on the clothesline.

“Listen to what she said to the angel.”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:30-32 (NirV) and hand it to the actress. Hold up the handheld mic for her.

ACTRESS (as MARY): “*I serve the Lord. . . . May it happen to me just as you said it would.*”

STORYTELLER: “Then the angel left.”

Actress takes off the halo, puts on the brown/black wig, and stands behind the Mary costume on the clothesline.

ROAD TRIP

STORYTELLER: “Can you imagine how Mary must have been feeling? God—the One who created the entire world—was trusting her to be the mom of His Son! Wow, what a miracle! I bet Mary couldn’t even believe it! Maybe that’s why she decided to go visit someone else who was experiencing a miracle too—her cousin Elizabeth.

“Remember, the angel had told Mary that Elizabeth was going to have a baby, even though she was very old. And even though Mary would have to walk more than 100 miles, she decided to go and see Elizabeth.”

Actress takes off the brown/black wig, puts on the gray wig, and stands behind the Elizabeth costume on the clothesline.

“When Elizabeth saw Mary, she was so excited, but she wasn’t the only one! When Mary walked through the door, the baby inside Elizabeth jumped for joy!

Actress pushes the pillow in the Elizabeth costume so it looks like a baby moving in her belly.

“Can you believe that? Everybody say, ‘Whaaaaat?’”

KIDS: “Whaaaaat?”

STORYTELLER: “That’s right! In the book of Luke, we read that the baby inside Elizabeth actually jumped. It’s almost like Elizabeth’s baby knew that the Son of God was near. So cool! Elizabeth told Mary that she and the baby growing inside her were both blessed.

Actress takes off the gray wig, puts on the brown/black wig, and stands behind the Mary costume on the clothesline.

“Mary’s heart was filled with joy and happiness because of all God was doing. He was going to rescue His people as He had promised so many years earlier, and He had chosen Mary to help with the plan! Mary’s heart was so full that she sang these words.”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:46-55 (NirV) and hand it to the actress. Hold up the handheld mic for her.

ACTRESS (as MARY): “My soul gives glory to the Lord. My spirit delights in God my Savior. He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important. . . . He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him. . . . He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three more months, and then she returned home. She was excited to see all that God had planned for her.

“After all, the baby God was sending was Jesus, His Son! Jesus was the One who would rescue the world from sin so that we could have a relationship with our perfect God.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“It just goes to show you that **[Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others’ needs**—even someone who seemed so ordinary, like Mary. God can use you and me, too. **[Bottom Line] He can use anyone to meet others’ needs.**

“Let’s pray.”

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You for sending Your only Son, Jesus, to save the whole world. Thank You for choosing someone like Mary to be part of your plan. It helps us remember that You can use anyone to meet the needs of others. Help us to be ready to do that. Help us to trust You like Mary did. Help us to show Your compassion to the people around us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller and actress exit.

Closer

HOST: “Wow. I think it’s amazing how God used Mary to be part of His plan to bring Jesus into the world. Mary was a regular, ordinary person, and God used her to be part of the most amazing miracle we could ever imagine!

“That’s super exciting for me to think about. You know why? Because of the miracle of Christmas, for sure. But it also reminds me that God can use anyone to do big things for Him—people like you and people like me. No matter how old you are, no matter how much money you have, even if you aren’t the strongest or the smartest or the fastest at finding Bible verses, God can use YOU!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God can use anyone to meet others’ needs.

“How do you think He could use YOU to meet others’ needs? There are lots of ways to do that. You could play a game or tell a joke to brighten someone’s day when they’re feeling down. You could draw a picture to show your mom or dad that you love and appreciate them. Everyone needs to hear that, don’t you think?”

Note: We suggest giving your kids and families a tangible way to show compassion by connecting them with a project through Compassion International. Take time before dismissal to promote a project of your choice, such as raising money for items in the [Compassion Gift Catalog](#).

“Think of some ways you can **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated.** Make

others your mission. That's what showing compassion is all about! In fact, you get to talk some more about that in Small Group. You can head that way now. Have fun!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

CG: Theme Slide

Optional CG (Media Package): Theme Loop Video