

# City LG - December 14-15, 2019

**Bible Story:** Born to Be Our Friend (The Coming Birth of Jesus) • *Luke 1:26-56*

**Bottom Line:** You can have joy because God is with you.

**Memory Verse:** *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* Philippians 4:4 (NirV)

**CG: Countdown Video**

**WORSHIP: “Dance” and “Jesus, Savior of the World”**

*Worship Leader prays...*

**NOTE: Be sure children know that The City will not be meeting next weekend. Invite them to attend one of the 25 Christmas services at Parkview and invite a friend!**

“Hi, everyone! I’m so glad you’re here today, because we’re taking a look at the events that led up to Jesus’ birth. God had promised that He would send a Savior to rescue His people, but no one knew when it would happen or who the Savior would be.

“To find out what happened next, we’re looking today in the book of Luke. (*Hold up Bible.*) The book of Luke was written by a guy named—you guessed it—Luke! Luke kept really good records of everything that happened so he could share them with people like us! Isn’t that cool?

“In the book of Luke, we read that Mary lived in the town of Nazareth. She was an ordinary teenager living in an ordinary place. And she was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.”

“One day, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. The angel said these words.

*Open the Bible to Luke 1:30-33 (NirV) and read—in a deep, booming voice.*

*“Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people.”*

“Mary asked Gabriel how this could happen. Gabriel said that God’s Holy Spirit would make it happen. Gabriel also told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was pregnant, even though she was very old. Mary must have been afraid and confused. But her response was amazing. Listen to what she told the angel.

*Open the Bible to Luke 1:38 (NirV) and read.*

*“I serve the Lord . . . May it happen to me just as you said it would.*

“Then the angel left her. Let’s stop right there, and let our Bible Story video this week finish the rest of the story. Let’s watch!”

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 5:00)**

“Just like Mary had joy because God was with her, you can have joy because God is with YOU!

“That’s what we need to remember today.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “You can have joy because God is with you.**

“No matter what you’re going through—in the good times and bad—God is always there. He loves you so much, and He’ll never, ever leave you! Let’s pray and thank Him right now.”

**Pray:** “Dear God, thank You for being with Mary through this amazing part of her story when—all of a sudden—her life started to look a lot different than she thought it would. Thank You for being good and for being a God we can trust. Thank You for reminding us today that we can count on You no matter what. Help us to have joy knowing you are always right there with us! We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“Just as the angel said, Mary would get to be the mother of Jesus—God’s Son. And sure enough, Jesus grew up to change the world. He loved people so much that He gave His life for them and for us. Jesus died on the cross, but then God brought Him back from the dead! Because of what Jesus did, we can trust that God will ALWAYS be with us. We can find true joy when we remember what God has done for us. We have nothing to be afraid of, because He will never leave us!

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “You can have joy because God is with you.**

“There are a lot of things that can make us feel afraid or out of control. Some people are afraid of snakes and spiders . . . while other people are afraid of the dark or being called on in school. Maybe you worry about something that’s happening with your family. Maybe there are times when you just feel sad or alone.

“Here’s the really great news. The same God who was with Mary that day is with YOU today! He loves you. He knows how you feel. He’s always there with you to be your friend and to help you through any challenge you might face.

**[Bottom Line] “You can have joy because God is with you.**

“It’s almost time for you to head to Small Group. Before we head there, let’s worship God with our offering!”

**CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 3:00)**

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*