

PURPOSE

God Story:

Mary | Luke 1:5-56

Big Idea:

When we listen to God, we learn our purpose.

Key Verse:

I will listen to what God the Lord says. He promises peace to his faithful people. | Psalm 85:8a (NIRV)

Leader Tip:

Take time this week to listen to God and prepare well for this lesson. Pray for your group before the kids arrive.

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**
Talk about what the kids want to be when they're older and what they think God might want them to do. Introduce today's Big Idea.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
Play an active version of Broken Telephone to highlight the importance of listening.

Gs God Story Ls Life Story

- 3. Weekly Video** **12 minutes**
Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, Key Verse, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching together.

Ms My Story

- 4. Small Group Activity** **12 minutes ***
Have fun decorating a Christmas "tree" (a person!) while talking about Mary's purpose in the story, then discuss God's purpose for the kids.
- 5. Wrap-Up Activity** **8 minutes**
Create a sticky-note Christmas tree as the kids reflect on God's purpose for them. Pray as a group that God would help us listen to him.

Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal**
Connect with parents and give them the take-home materials.

* Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- If needed, explain the idea of a “purpose” to the kids. It’s the reason we do something. For example, a teacher’s purpose is to teach things to students.

Instructions:

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and gather everyone together.
- Ask:
 - What do you want to be when you grow up?
 - What do you think God wants you to do when you grow up? Do you think he cares?
 - What do you think your purpose is right now?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today’s Big Idea: **When we listen to God, we learn our purpose.**

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- Depending on your timing and the number of kids, you may want to divide into smaller groups to speed up the activity.

Instructions:

- Gather everyone to sit in a circle.
- Explain that you’re going to play an active version of Broken Telephone.
- Whisper instructions to the person on your left (e.g., give every leader a high five; take off a shoe and give it to someone; sing, “We Wish You a Merry Christmas!” while doing jumping jacks; crabwalk to a wall then back to your seat; spin around three times and say, “Jesus is Lord!”).
- Instruct that person to whisper the same instructions into the next person’s ear.
- Repeat until the person to your right receives the instructions. That person must then do what they heard. Find out how close it was to the original!
- Repeat if time allows and the kids are interested.
- To wrap up, explain that it’s important to listen so we know what to do. We must be still and quiet to hear. It’s the same with listening to God.



3. WEEKLY VIDEO

Supplies:

- Video file

Leader Tip:

- Get the kids' initial reactions right after watching the video. Ask what stood out to them and clarify ideas as needed.

Instructions:

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Mary | Luke 1:5-56)
 - Key Verse segment
 - Life Story (Jordan Heywood shares a story about listening to God.)
- Discuss:
 - What's the Key Verse for this series? (Psalm 85:8)
 - What was the Life Story about in today's video?
 - What was the God Story about?
 - How do you think these two stories and today's Big Idea (**When we listen to God, we learn our purpose**) connect?



4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Bag containing masking tape, cutouts (doves, stars, and angels), garland, fabric (tree skirt)

Instructions:

- Gather your small group together.
- Pull one item at a time from the bag.
- For each item, ask the kids what they think its purpose is.
- After you've emptied the bag, reveal that these items are all meant to decorate a Christmas tree.
- Point out that your group doesn't have a tree, so you'll need a volunteer to pose as one!
- Guide the rest of the kids to decorate your "tree". As they do so, discuss:
 - In today's God Story, who listened to God?
 - What was Mary's purpose?
 - What was Jesus' purpose while he was on earth? (to save us from sin, show us God's love, and set up his kingdom)
- Emphasize that Christmas is all about celebrating Jesus!
- When you're finished decorating, remove the items and gather in a circle again.
- Discuss:
 - Do you think God has a special purpose for you? If so, what do you think it might be? How are you listening to God to find out?
 - What do you think your purpose is at home? At school? With your friends?

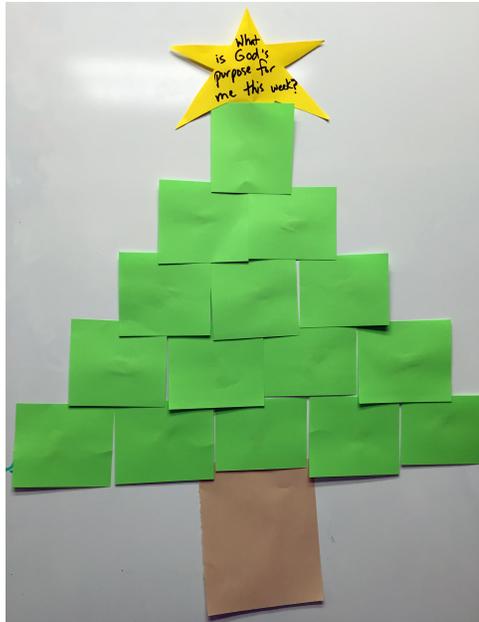
5. WRAP-UP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Green sticky notes
- Wall-safe tape
- Brown paper rectangle
- Star cutout with "What is God's purpose for me this week?" printed on it
- Markers

Before the Activity:

- Create a tree shape on a wall with the sticky notes (see sample photo below). Start with a base of five notes, then add a row of four notes, and so on. Use wall-safe tape to add the trunk and the star.



Instructions:

- Remind the kids that **when we listen to God, we learn our purpose.**
- Encourage them to pray silently and ask God what his purpose is for them this week. Give them time to sit quietly and listen.
- Give each person a marker.
- Instruct everyone to take a sticky note off the wall and write what they think God's purpose is for them or a prayer to God about it.
- Guide them to place their notes back into a tree

shape on the wall.

- When everyone is done, read aloud some of the kids' notes.
- Emphasize the importance of listening to God and that each of us has a special purpose, just like the people from today's God and Life Stories.
- Close in prayer. Ask God to help us listen to him, learn our purpose, and live it out.

Os Our Story

6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Key Verse colouring pages

Leader Tip:

- Organize the take-home materials so they're easy to access. It may be helpful to sort them before the lesson, then set out any crafts later. Consider having one leader focus on handing out everything.

Instructions:

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids. Take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
- Give everyone a weekly take-home card.
- Offer a Key Verse card and a colouring page to anyone who has not gotten them this month.
- Remind the kids to take their crafts.