



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE

W₄ A₁ I₁ T₁ F₄ O₁ R₁ I₁ T₁

THE BIG IDEA

Wait and see, God will do impossible things.

THE BIBLE

An Angel Appears to Mary:
Luke 1:26-38; (Psalm 89:1-8)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- MUSIC** | Song and Play
- ACTIVITY** | What Time Is It, Fox?
- ACTIVITY** | The Impossible Shot
- ACTIVITY** | Operation
- SCRIPTURE** | Luke 1:26-38
- THE BIG IDEA** | Wait and see, God will do impossible things.
- VIDEO** | Wait For It, Episode 3
- STORY** | Impossible Made Possible
- ACTIVITY** | Angels Announce the Impossible
- SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 89:1-8
- REFLECTION** | Wait and See
- ACTIVITY** | UNO!
- MEMORY VERSE** | Connect 4
- PRAYER**

SMALL GROUP TIME

- DISCUSSION**
 - What was the name of the angel that God sent to tell about Jesus?
 - Why would Mary have thought that what the angel was saying would be impossible?
 - How did Mary respond to the message?
 - Read Psalm 89:6-8. What does it mean that no one can compare to God?
 - What is something that you are waiting on God to do in your life (or in someone else's life) that seems impossible?
 - How can we be more like Mary while waiting?
 - Why do you think it is important for us to praise God while waiting for the impossible?
- ACTIVITY** | Musical Parody
- MEMORY VERSE** | Micah 7:7 (NIV)



BY STEPHEN BAY

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR PRETEENS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but preteens tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your preteens more engaged.

ACTIVITY | Operation

Since this week's lesson is about waiting for the impossible to happen, change the second question to: "Have you ever tried to do something in a hurry, only to mess up and have to start all over again?" Have the kids share a time where "haste makes waste." Set up the importance of patience and then play "Operation" as a small group.

ACTIVITY | Angels Announce the Impossible

Play "The Messenger Game" (i.e. Telephone). Remind the kids that angels are messengers from God. Say, "It isn't easy being a messenger – you have to pass along a message accurately, which sometimes seems impossible to do!" Have the kids line up, then whisper a sentence (written out on a piece of paper that you'll keep secret until the end) to the first kid. They will then whisper it to the next kid, and so on, until the end of the line. At the end, compare what the last kid says to the original sentence written on the paper.

REFLECTION | Wait and See

Add these questions:

- **What are some of the impossible things in today's story?**
- **How did Mary react to these impossible things she was told?**

MEMORY VERSE | Connect Four

For an added challenge for preteens, make a vertical grid (e.g., on a wall) and have them play according to the Connect Four rules, where their pieces must drop to the lowest available space.



BY CHRISTIN RICKMAN

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but kids with special needs tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your kids with special needs more engaged.

MUSIC | Song and Play

For anything being used that may be loud in noise, such as poppers, provide noise-cancelling headphones.

REFLECTION | Wait and See

This activity can be turned into a small group reflection to increase participation. Print out some emojis and stick them on craft sticks and pass them out to the kids. As you ask them to imagine what Mary must have felt and how they would feel, have them hold up the emoji stick as their response. Explain each emoji beforehand (e.g., confused, scared, nervous, excited, etc.).

ACTIVITY | Musical Parody

Make sure to have adult leaders assigned to groups with kids with special needs so that they can provided detailed explanation and guide the groups to include everyone in the songwriting process. Leaders can also help ensure that the song is short and concise, so it is not an overwhelming task.



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

W₄ A₁ I₁ T₁ F₄ O₁ R₁ I₁ T₁

THE BIG IDEA

Wait and see, God will do impossible things.

THE BIBLE

An Angel Appears to Mary:
Luke 1:26-38; (Psalm 89:1-8)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Song and Play

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [Born is the King \(It's Christmas\)](#), and encourage the kids to mimic some of the things happening in this video. Get a trunk or box and fill it with poppers, silly string, etc. for the kids to celebrate with and worship.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For anything being used that may be loud in noise, such as poppers, provide noise-cancelling headphones.

ACTIVITY | What Time Is It, Fox?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** One kid is chosen to be the fox and takes their place across the gym or room from the other kids. The fox then shouts a number between one and twelve o'clock. The number shouted is the number of steps the group of kids take toward them (e.g. for nine o'clock, take nine steps). Once the kids get close to the fox, the fox shouts, "Lunch time!" and chases them back to the start line. The kid who is tagged first has to be the fox next.
- This game has lots of opportunities to practice patience! If you're the fox, you're waiting for everyone to get close so you can yell, "Lunch time!" and chase them back to the start. If you're listening to the fox, you're waiting for the numbers to be called so you can inch your way closer. And as we've been learning, waiting is super important.

ACTIVITY | The Impossible Shot

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Develop a challenge for the kids to do something that is impossible, such as a long range basketball shot, sling shot to a target, throwing a stuffed animal into the trunk of someone's car from a long range, etc. Make it fun and build on the impossibility of it.*
- Some things are impossible for some of us, but not for everyone.

ACTIVITY | Operation

- **How many of you have played the game, "Operation?"** In this game, you must do impossible things to grab game pieces without triggering the buzz sound! It takes incredible skill and patience.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Demonstrate the game [Operation](#) or ask kids to come up one at a time and try!*
- **If you had the ability to have an incredible superpower or skill to do something impossible, what would it be and why?**
- The Bible is full of stories where God does the impossible and our story today is no different.
 - ✘ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Since this week's lesson is about waiting for the impossible to happen, change the second question to: "Have you ever tried to do something in a hurry, only to mess up and have to start all over again?" Have the kids share a time where "haste makes waste." Set up the importance of patience and them play "Operation" as a small group.*

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?***SCRIPTURE | Luke 1:26-38**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *After reading this story to the kids, ask for two volunteers. With a small game of, "Pictionary," ask them to draw from a short deck of cards with images from the story. The two volunteers take turns drawing each image in under a minute, asking the group to raise their hand and guess what the image is. Leave the cards "Mary," "angel," and "baby Jesus" to the end to lead into the Bible story.*
- Let's look at the last three drawings . . . and put them together. **Can anyone guess what story these pictures tell?**
- *[Read Luke 1:26-33 aloud.]* This is a story we hear about a lot this time of year because this is part of the story where Jesus' mom found out Jesus was coming! What God had promised throughout the whole Bible is now coming true!
- *[Read Luke 1:34-35 aloud.]* What makes this story amazing is that the angel, a messenger from heaven, reminds Mary of something impossible that God did in the past before she would believe that something impossible would happen in her life too.
- *[Review Luke 1:36-38 aloud.]* Elizabeth was never supposed to be able to have a baby, but she was! Mary was not supposed to be pregnant with Jesus, but she was!

THE BIG IDEA | Wait and see, God will do impossible things.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the two giant dice from previous weeks and have the kids take turns passing and rolling the dice. When they roll two of the same number, they get to uncover the Big Idea! Then, encourage all the kids to say the Big Idea together.
- You did it! Now for one more roll . . . a drumroll!
- Today's Big Idea is: **Wait and see, God will do impossible things**

VIDEO | Wait For It, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

STORY | Impossible Made Possible

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share about a time when you saw God do something impossible, like healing for someone with a terminal illness or provision at just the right time.
- **Does anyone have their own impossible story they'd like to share?**
- God is not just a God of the impossible in the past! **Wait and see . . . God will do impossible things** in our lives, too!

ACTIVITY | Angels Announce the Impossible

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Check out these [detailed instructions](#) on how to do this craft and download the [free template](#). Place glue onto one edge of your four-inch-long strip of paper and glue it into a circle. Then, make two angel wings by placing some glue on one edge of a six-inch strip and gluing the other end down on top of it to form a teardrop shape. To make the angel's body, place glue onto both ends of the seven-inch strip and glue them down onto each end of the three and a half-inch strip, forming a bell shape. Glue the head on top of the body and each wing to each side of the angel. Lastly, add a piece of yarn through the top for hanging!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Play "The Messenger Game" (i.e. Telephone). Remind the kids that angels are messengers from God. Have the kids line up, then whisper a sentence (written out on a piece of paper that you'll keep secret until the end) to the first kid. They will then whisper it to the next kid, and so on, until the end of the line. At the end, compare what the last kid says to the original sentence written on the paper.
- God used angels to announce that God would be doing impossible things with Jesus' help. You can hang the angel you made today somewhere in your home to remind you that nothing is impossible with God!

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 89:1-8

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break down the verses into different parts and have them written or printed on eight different pieces of paper. Distribute the numbered verses and have the kids take turns reading them in order. After they finish, ask the following questions . . .
- **When something amazing happens to you, how do you celebrate? Do you eat special foods, throw a party, or get together with your best friends?**

- God created us to be people who celebrate, and the verses we read are a song of celebration! Our Big Idea, **Wait and see, God will do impossible things**, will make you want to celebrate!

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

REFLECTION | Wait and See

- We've talked a lot about the angels and the job they had in telling Mary to wait and see.
- **But what if you were Mary? How would you feel if God sent someone to you and told you that you would do something impossible? Would you feel nervous? Overwhelmed? Happy?**
- Mary must have felt a lot of those things, too. But she trusted God's promises. She waited to see God do impossible things through her!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Add these questions: "What are some of the impossible things in today's story?" "How did Mary react to these impossible things she was told?"*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Print out some emojis and stick them on craft sticks and pass them out to the kids. As you ask them to imagine what Mary must have felt and how they would feel, have them hold up the emoji stick as their response. Explain each emoji beforehand (e.g., confused, scared, nervous, excited, etc.).*

ACTIVITY | UNO!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the UNO printable for this activity (print as many copies as you need so that each kid can have five cards). Give each kid a set of five random cards. Play "[Angels We Have Heard on High](#)." When the kids hear their line in the song, they put that card face down in front of them. If they're down to one card, they declare, "UNO!" and win!*
- Angels were singing with joy in celebration of Jesus being born. **What kind of announcements does God make in your life that remind you that God can do impossible things?**
- **What kind of "angels" or people who are a lot like angels tell you about Jesus?**

MEMORY VERSE | Connect Four

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split the memory verse into 4 segments (i.e., [But as for me I watch / in hope for the Lord / I wait for God my Savior / My God will hear me](#)) and write it out where kids can see. Create a large 7x7 grid on the floor using painter's tape. Split your group into two teams, and give one team a set of [green paper plates](#) and the other, [red paper plates](#). Have each team write the four memory verse segments on their plates multiple times using permanent markers. To play, teams will take turns placing a plate anywhere on the grid (of course, you want to block the other team from getting four in a row). The first team to get four of their memory verses plates in a row (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally) with the memory verse in the correct order wins!*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *For an added challenge for preteens, make a vertical grid (e.g., on a wall) and have them play according to the Connect Four rules, where their pieces must drop to the lowest available space.*

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank You for doing impossible things, not just in the Bible, but even today. Help us to see all of the ways You are doing impossible things around us every day! Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME**DISCUSSION**

- What was the name of the angel that God sent to tell about Jesus?
- Why would Mary have thought that what the angel was saying would be impossible?
- How did Mary respond to the message?
- Read Psalm 89:6-8. What does it mean that no one can compare to God?
- What is something that you are waiting on God to do in your life (or in someone else's life) that seems impossible?
- How can we be more like Mary while waiting?
- Why do you think it is important for us to praise God while waiting for the impossible?

ACTIVITY | Musical Parody

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids into small groups. Have each of the small groups get together and write a song about the Bible story and the Big Idea for the week. The kids can choose a melody from a favorite Christmas song and rewrite the lyrics together. If time allows, have the small groups share their songs with each other.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Make sure to have adult leaders assigned to groups with kids with special needs so that they can provide detailed explanation and guide the groups to include everyone in the songwriting process. Leaders can also help ensure that the song is short and concise, so it is not an overwhelming task.*
- This time of year is filled with songs and carols about God's great love for us being shown through the birth of Jesus. It is incredible that love has a name, and it's Jesus! If we continue to **wait and see, God will do impossible things!**

MEMORY VERSE | Micah 7:7 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.*