

Small Group Leader Guide

Virtual Small Group

December Week 2

K3

Today's Bible Story: Joyful, Joyful (Gabriel Appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-56*

Today's Bottom Line: You can have joy because God has a plan for you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.* Luke 2:11 (*NIRV*)

Monthly Life App: Christmas—Celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

What You Need:

- Either print the "All the Feels Cards" Activity Page or have it ready on a separate device so you can hold it up to the camera you are using for the video meeting.

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you choose, consider using one of the ice breakers or games on the "Virtual Small Group General Info" page.
- If you've chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you've given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled.
- After the Bible story video, transition into the activity below.

Activity:

What You Do:

- Tell kids they're going to play a game like charades, but instead of actions, they'll be guessing emotions.
- To keep it super simple, you could act out the emotion yourself and let kids raise their hands if they think they know what the emotion is. Then call on the first kid to raise their hand and let them guess.
- Or to let kids do the acting themselves:
 - Ask for a volunteer to go first.
 - Instruct everyone else to turn around so they can't see their screens.
 - Silently show the volunteer an emotion card and prompt them to give a thumbs up or a "Got it!" to indicate they understand.
 - Let the other kids turn back around.
 - Give a moment for the actor to act out the emotion. They can use facial and body expressions, but no words.
 - The rest of the group should raise their hands when they think they have a guess as to what emotion is being displayed.
 - Call on the first kid to raise their hand and let them guess.
 - If they get it right, they get to be the next actor.
 - If they get it wrong, let someone else guess. If the group is having trouble understanding, give them a hint or two.
 - *Note: Make sure you give younger kids the more straight-forward emotions to act out.*

What You Say:

“Those are a lot of emotions! Have you ever heard someone say they have ‘all the feels’ when they are experiencing a lot of emotions at once?”

“This story has ‘all the feels’ in it, too. How did Mary feel when she was a young girl, thinking of her future? (*happy, hopeful, maybe curious about her future*) How about when the mighty angel Gabriel burst into her life? (*scared, confused*) What about after she heard what he had to say? (*confused, worried, peaceful, happy, curious, excited, nervous*) Elizabeth had some feelings, too. When she saw Mary arrive, she was so happy that the baby she carried jumped with excitement!

“But today we’re talking about joy. Is joy a feeling? (*Invite answers—they might be mixed.*) Joy is more than just feeling happy or excited. Joy is choosing to trust God even when you don’t know all the answers. Joy is choosing not to be anxious or upset about the things you don’t know and instead trusting God because you know He is good and He has a plan for your life. Today, we heard that **[Bottom Line] you can have joy because God has a plan for you.**

“Mary discovered God’s plan was NOT like her plan, but she had joy because she trusted God. She trusted that He is good, and she trusted that His plan for her life was good. Sometimes, especially this year, life might not look the way you planned, but you can choose to trust God the same way Mary did.”

Close your group in prayer:

“Dear God, thank You for Your plans for us, our families, and our world. Please help us remember that Your plans are good and lead to life. Give us joy this season as we follow You and celebrate Jesus. Amen.”