

# Small Group Leader Guide

## Virtual Small Group

### December Week 2

#### Preteen

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

**Today's Key Question:** What are your plans for Christmas?

**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:

- Inform families that kids will be going on a scavenger hunt at home, looking for props to help them act out today's story. But tell them not to gather any props ahead of time.

#### 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:

- Engage kids in a quick recap conversation about the Bible story. Is there something they heard today that they've never heard before or hadn't thought of before?
- Tell kids they're going to get a chance to act out today's story, but they get to provide all of their own props!
  - Provide a few ideas to get them started brainstorming. They could get a white sheet and fancy/shiny headgear for Gabriel, a ball under their shirt for Elizabeth, sheets or towels to use as robes and headdresses for Mary and Elizabeth.
- Tell kids they've have three minutes to find props and costumes to use to act out the story.
- When you say, "Go," challenge kids to race around their homes gathering as many props as they can think of.
- (Before the leave, you might want to tell them that if they're not back in three minutes you'll start without them. Just so they have motivation to be back in time!)
- You'll likely end up with some duplicate props.
- Read the story from Luke 1:26-56, pausing to give "direction" and suggestions for action whenever needed.
- As kids act out the story, let them simultaneously be the same characters if they have the same props.

- You may need to prompt kids to make sure they can be seen on their cameras, as they're moving around.

**What You Say:**

Ask:

- Mary wasn't planning to have a baby at this point in her life. She certainly wasn't planning to have an angel appear to her out of nowhere? How do you think she felt when her entire life's plans shifted and changed?
- Do you like having set plans, loose plans, or no plans? (Ask kids to elaborate on their responses.) Does it throw your day off if something in the plan changes?
- How was Jesus a part of God's plan all along?
- What are your family's plans for Christmas?

Close your group in prayer:

"Dear God, thank You so much for the joy we have in You this Christmas season and always! Thank You for sending Jesus for us—we needed a Savior, and You gave us Jesus! I thank You for each kid sitting here today—they are all special to me and even more so to You. Thank You for how You made them each special and beautiful and smart and funny! We praise You for the plan You have for us and that we can trust You no matter what. It's in Jesus' name we pray, Amen!"