

Lesson Two

Mary Believed God's Message



Growing as a Teacher

Scripture

Luke 1

Bible Truth

Mary believed God's message about the promised Savior and submitted to God as the Lord who deserves obedience.

Lesson Aim

- To trust and obey the Lord.
- To explain what the name *Lord* means.

The time had come for the fulfillment of God's promise; the coming of the Savior was at hand. God sent an angel to a priest named Zechariah, with the message that Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, would be the parents of the one who would "make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:17). Zechariah doubted God's words, and he was struck speechless until the promised child, John, was born.

Mary, on the other hand, responded in humble faith when the angel told her she would be the mother of the promised Savior. When she asked, "How will this be?" she was not expressing unbelief but an eagerness to understand *how* God would accomplish this. After hearing the angel's explanation, Mary willingly submitted to what she knew would be a difficult situation. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary said (Luke 1:38). The young virgin obediently trusted God to work out his sovereign plan.

Then Mary hurried south to visit her relative Elizabeth to share the news. At their meeting, the women rejoiced together in the callings God had chosen for them in preparing the world for his salvation. Elizabeth's benediction and Mary's hymn of praise—filled with Old Testament quotations—reflect their joy and expectation.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, these women recognized the child in Mary's womb as *Adonai*—the sovereign Lord, the Mighty One who has final authority over everything and who deserves complete obedience.

They rejoiced in the coming of the Savior and they worshiped him as their Lord. Pray that you and the children you teach will experience that same joy, and that it will lead to your own heartfelt worship.

The young virgin
obediently trusted
God to work out his
sovereign plan.

Memory Work

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1 JOHN 4:9

Lesson Two at a Glance

Step	Minutes	Children's Activities	Supplies (complete list, p. 11)
1 Welcome	5-10	Play <i>The Name Game</i> to get ready for Bible Time.	<input type="checkbox"/> Index cards (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils or markers <input type="checkbox"/> TA 1a Names poster*
2 Bible Time	15-20	Listen to the story of the birth of Jesus foretold, Mary's visit to Elizabeth and the birth of John. Learn what the name <i>Lord</i> means.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 1a Names poster* <input type="checkbox"/> TA 2 Mary & Elizabeth*
3 Memory Work	5-10	Memorize 1 John 4:9. Complete a memory work hanging card.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 1b Memory Work* <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:9 hanging card** <input type="checkbox"/> Yarn
4 Activities	10-15	Do <i>At Home 2</i> activities.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>At Home 2</i> ** <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Crayons or markers
5 Final Focus	5	8 Sing "Jesus is the Lord" (Songbook, p. 14).	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>At Home 2</i> ** <input type="checkbox"/> SA 2 Names poster** <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Optional</i> : song poster, <i>Younger Elementary Vol. 1</i> CD

Total time: 40-60 minutes

* *Younger Elementary Teaching Aids Pack*
 ** *Younger Elementary Student Activities Pack*



Practical Preparation



Student Poster

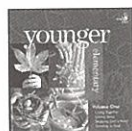
Children will take home SA 2 Names of the Savior poster (also TA 1a) at the end of this lesson (in the Student Activities Pack). This will help them learn the Savior's names introduced this quarter. Encourage students to put the poster on a wall, refrigerator or bulletin board at home.

8 "Jesus Is the Lord"
Younger Elementary
Vol. 1 CD

Gather the items you need to teach this lesson. Study the Bible story and memorize 1 John 4:9. Ahead of time, label index cards (one per child) with each child's first name. During the Welcome step, the children will locate their particular cards. (Have a few blank cards available for visitors.)

Make sure you have what you need for each child to make a memory work hanging card. The 1 John 4:9 hanging cards are found in the *Younger Elementary Student Activities Pack*.

Students will sing "Jesus Is the Lord" (Songbook, p. 14) in Final Focus. The words are found on the back of *At Home 2* or you may make a song poster (see p. 10). Learn the first verse and tune of this wonderful song and be ready to teach it to the children. Consider using the *Younger Elementary Vol. 1* CD, a keyboard or guitar to help teach the song.



Order CD and/or extra Songbooks from Great Commission Publications at 800-695-3387 or www.gcp.org.



Welcome

5–10 minutes

Greet the children and tell them they are going to play games using their names. Spread the index cards on a table with the names showing. *Say Find a card with your name on it. After they find their cards, say Count the letters to see how many letters your name has. Help the children line up according to number of letters in their names. Ask Who has the name with the most letters? the fewest? Who has a name with the same number of letters as yours? Now help the children line up in alphabetical order. Ask Who has a name that starts with the same first letter as yours?* Involve them in a discussion about their names. Find out how they got their names. Perhaps they were named after a relative, family friend or person in the Bible. Some children may know what their name means. Tell them the history of your own name. If you have more time, let the children think of other ways to sort their names.

Now go over to *TA 1a Names of the Savior* poster. *Say Last week we learned that long before the Savior came, he was given many wonderful names. Each name has a special meaning. Last week we learned that the Savior is our Wonderful Counselor. Review the meaning of this name and then point to the name Lord. Say Today we are going to learn what the name Lord tells us about Jesus, our wonderful Savior.*



Bible Time

15–20 minutes

Open your Bible to Luke 1. Show the children where to find the passage in their Bibles.

Zechariah (*ZEK-uh-RI-uh*) the priest and his wife, Elizabeth, lived in a town in Judea. They loved God and obeyed the Scriptures. But they were sad because they did not have a child, and now that they were old they did not expect to ever have the family they had prayed and hoped for.

One day, as Zechariah served in the temple in Jerusalem, an angel of the Lord suddenly came and stood beside him. Zechariah was very frightened by the sight.

“Don’t be afraid, Zechariah,” the angel said. “God has heard your prayers. Your wife, Elizabeth, is going to have a son and you must name him John. He will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will tell people to turn back to God so that they will be ready to welcome the Savior who is about to come.”

“How is this possible?” Zechariah asked, not believing. “My wife and I are too old to have a baby.”

Early Arrivals



Have red, green and white construction paper available along with bright markers. This is a time for sharing gifts, and early arrivals may enjoy making cards for congregation members—such as the pastor, elders, deacons, Sunday school teachers, custodian and others. Have the children fold the paper, draw and write a message, and sign their handiwork. Collect the cards and hand them out to church members later on.

1a

Names of the Savior

My name is Wonderful Counselor	Jesus chose to be Wonderful Counselor so that we will know how much he loves us and how he will help us know the way to God. He is our Wonderful Counselor.
My name is Lord	Jesus is our Lord even though he died for our sins. He is the one who leads us to God. He is our Lord.
My name is Jesus	The name Jesus means Savior . Jesus is God the Son who came to earth to save us from our sins. Jesus is our Savior.
My name is Christ	Christ means Anointed One or Messiah . Jesus is God's Anointed One who came to earth to save us from our sins. Jesus is our Christ.
My name is Lamb of God	Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. He is the one who saves us from our sins. Jesus is our Lamb of God.

The name of God is Holy, but we can't speak it. The name of God is Jesus, but we can't speak it. The name of God is the Holy Spirit, but we can't speak it. The name of God is the Father, but we can't speak it. The name of God is the Son, but we can't speak it. The name of God is the Spirit, but we can't speak it. The name of God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Enrichment

Play *Who Said It?* Read the Bible verses below one at a time. If the speaker's name is mentioned, read only the words in quotation marks and then ask, “Who said it?” If you plan to provide hints, write these names on the chalkboard: Gabriel, Mary, Isaiah, Zechariah, Elizabeth.

Isaiah 9:6	Luke 1:13
Luke 1:18	Luke 1:30–31
Luke 1:38	Luke 1:43
Luke 1:46	



Learning Styles

There are four different learning styles:

1. The **imaginative** learner focuses on meaning: *Why* do I need to know?
2. The **analytic** learner focuses on content: *What* do I need to know?
3. The **common sense** learner focuses on experimentation: *How* does this work?
4. The **dynamic** learner focuses on creative application: *What* can this become?

The strengths of all students come to the fore when the teacher addresses all four learning styles in teaching the lesson.

Marlene D. LeFever,
*Learning Styles: Reaching Everyone
God Gave You to Teach*



Teaching Tip

Mark this page and come back to it each week as you prepare your lesson and pray for your students. As you teach, watch your children and try to decide which of the learning styles outlined above best describes each. It takes time to internalize this information, but once you do, its application will have a tremendous impact on your teaching.



Save TA 2 for Lesson 3.

“I am Gabriel,” the angel answered. “God sent me to bring you this good news. But because you have not believed my words, you will not be able to speak even one word until after your child is born.”

Even though he couldn’t speak, the old priest must have been thrilled as he made signs to the worshipers at the temple. They knew then that something special had happened to Zechariah when he was inside the temple.

Soon Elizabeth became pregnant, and she began to prepare for the birth of her child. *Ask* How do you think she felt when she knew she was going to have a baby? *Let the children discuss how pleased and thankful Elizabeth was that God had taken away her childlessness.*

Meanwhile, the angel Gabriel made another visit, this time not to a priest in the temple but to a young woman who lived in the village of Nazareth. Her name was Mary and she was engaged to be married to Joseph, who was from the family of King David.

“Greetings,” the angel said. “You are very special. The Lord is with you.”

Mary was scared and confused by the coming of the angel and by his words to her. But the angel calmed her fears.

“Don’t be afraid, Mary. God has chosen you to be the mother of a baby, a son, whom you will name Jesus,” the angel explained. “He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and he will rule over a kingdom that will last forever.”

“How is this possible?” Mary asked. “I am not yet married.” Mary wanted to know more about God’s plan for her and the baby.

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the child to be born will be called the Son of God,” the angel explained. “Even your relative Elizabeth, who seems too old to have a baby, is going to have a son. God can do all things. Nothing is too hard for God.”

At these words Mary replied, “I am the Lord’s servant. I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything happen just as you have said.” Then the angel left.

Then Mary got ready and hurried to the town where Elizabeth lived. The two women were very happy to see each other. *Show the children TA 2.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth said, “You are blessed by God, and so is the child you will bear. I am very honored that the mother of my Lord is visiting me!”

Mary answered Elizabeth with a beautiful song of praise. Listen as I read part of what she said. *Read Luke 1:46–49. The children can follow along in their Bibles.*

Never had Mary and Elizabeth known such joy. They knew God was keeping his promise to send the Savior. They knew that the Savior would be their Lord. *Point to the word Lord on TA 1a Names of the Savior poster. Say* In our story today, the word *Lord* is used many times. The angel Gabriel spoke about the *Lord*. Mary called herself the *Lord’s* servant. Elizabeth called Mary the mother of her *Lord*. And Mary said, “My soul praises the *Lord*.”

The name *Lord* is important even in the ending of our story. Listen carefully as I tell you what Zechariah said when Elizabeth gave birth to their baby and the old priest was able to speak again.

Read aloud from Luke 1:68, 76. “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel. . . .” Then, speaking about the baby John, he said, “And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him.”

Yes, the angel, Elizabeth, Mary and Zechariah all knew who the Lord was—the Savior of the world! *Point to the definition of the word Lord.* Say Jesus is called Lord because he rules over all the world and universe. He is the owner and master of everything. He rules over the lives of his children.

Praise God for sending his Son to be our Savior and Lord. Let us ask him to be Lord of our lives—just as Mary did when she called herself the Lord’s servant and was obedient to him.

Lead the children in saying simple sentence prayers: Thank God that Jesus is Lord; thank God that he sent Jesus to be our Lord and Savior; thank Jesus that he died to save us; ask God to help us love and obey the Lord.



Memory Work

5–10 minutes

Remind the children that Last week we learned that God loved his people first. How did he show his love? *To answer the question, point to 1 John 4:9 on the memory work poster (TA 1b) and read the verse aloud to the class:* “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.”

Say He sent his Son to die on the cross for our sins. He sent his Son to save us. He did this because he loves us very much!

Lead the class in saying 1 John 4:9 several times. Then hand out a 1 John 4:9 hanging card and a 10" length of yarn to each child. Thread a length of yarn through the hole and knot it at the ends. The children will take these hanging cards home at the end of the lesson. They can hang them on a Christmas tree, a doorknob, a wall—anywhere that will help them remember to memorize 1 John 4:9.



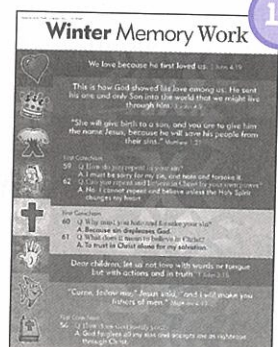
Teaching Tip

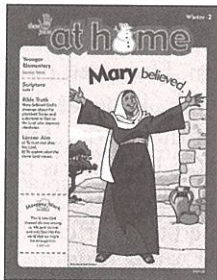
Remember! The five-step lesson allows you to omit an entire section if time is a problem. However, never omit *Bible Time*, as this is the heart of the lesson. This is where God’s Word is taught and basic Bible truths are explained to your children.



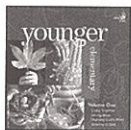
Teaching Tip

Use reinforcement labels around the holes to prevent the yarn from tearing the hanging cards.





8 "Jesus Is the Lord"
Songbook, p. 14



Order CD and/or extra Songbooks from Great Commission Publications at 800-695-3387 or www.gcp.org.



Items to Send Home

- At Home 2*
- SA 2 Names of the Savior poster
- 1 John 4:9 hanging card

4

Activities

10-15 minutes

Give each child a copy of *At Home 2*. Make sure that there are pencils and crayons or markers for everyone. Read aloud the title and directions for the part(s) you choose to do.

In *Jesus Is Lord!* use the focus question at the bottom to direct the conversation as the children work.

In *Trusting the Promised Savior*, help the students make the connection between the number of letters in a word, the number of blanks in the sentence and the number of boxes in the puzzle. **Answers: (down) 1. Counselor; (across) 1. Savior, 2. sin, 3. forgive, 4. Lord, 5. love, 6. obey**

5

Final Focus

5 minutes

Ask your students to turn to the back page of *At Home 2*. Teach them the first verse of "Jesus Is the Lord." Use the *Younger Elementary Vol. 1* CD or other musical accompaniment if possible. Explain any words that might confuse your students; for example, *amazing* means "awesome" or "great," and *eternally* means "forever."

Ask these questions to help them learn the words of this lovely song. Lead them in finding the answers in the words of the first verse.

- **Who is Jesus?** (*the Lord of all the earth and heav'n above*)
- **What can we praise him for?** (*his mighty works and his amazing love*)
- **Who is our Savior?** (*Jesus*)
- **Why did he come?** (*to die for me*)
- **Where does he live?** (*in heaven and in my heart by the Holy Spirit*)
- **Jesus has given us life that lasts . . .** (*eternally or forever*)

Sing the first verse of the song once or twice before ending the lesson. Hand out a SA 2 Names of the Savior poster to each child. Make sure children leave with their *At Home* papers and 1 John 4:9 hanging cards. Remind them to keep learning 1 John 4:9 and to show *At Home 2* to Mom or Dad.