

# Mary Hears Good News

Lesson 14

## Bible Story

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56

## Teacher Challenge

Hope is trusting that you will see the fulfillment of what you long for. The Israelites had hoped for thousands of years that the Savior God had promised would come. And it was this hope of a Messiah that caused ordinary people to do extraordinary things. God did fulfill His promise. He sent His own Son as the Messiah to live among the people and to die in our place for the punishment of our sins in order to reunite us forever with God.

- ➔ What does the coming of the Messiah mean to you?
- ➔ How do you celebrate the coming of the Savior?

The fulfillment of God's promise expresses so much love for us that it's beyond our understanding. No matter what happens, you have God's promise of help today and eternal life tomorrow. God's love exhibited by you can help others and prove that Jesus is alive and desires a personal relationship with them. Share the joy and excitement of the reality of Jesus with the children in your class. Celebrate the promise and gift of God's love.

**God's Word**  
"God loved us and sent his Son."  
(See 1 John 4:10.)

**God's Word and Me**  
I can thank God for His promise  
to send His Son, Jesus.

## Teacher's Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



# Play to Learn

Lesson 14

## Active Game Center: Berry Wreath

### Collect

Bible, large sheet of green construction paper, scissors, masking tape, red construction paper or red dot stickers.

### Prepare

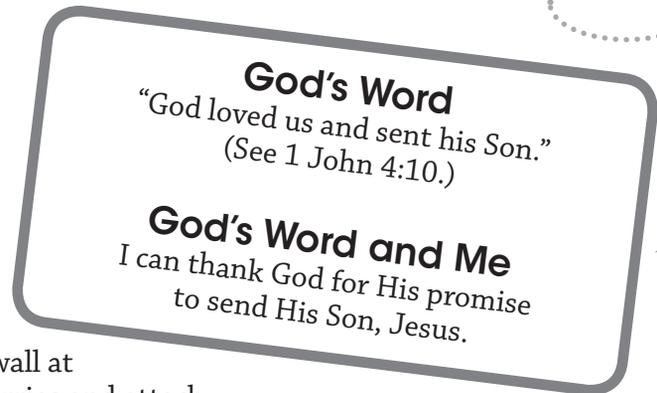
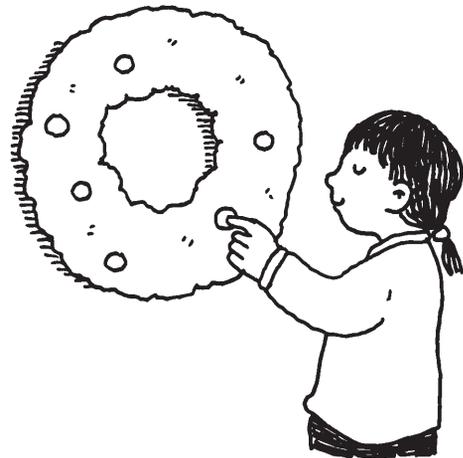
Cut a large wreath from green paper. Tape it to the wall at children's eye level. Cut circles from red paper for berries and attach a small loop of masking tape to each one or use red dot stickers for berries.

### Do

1. Each child takes a turn to select a berry and stand several feet from the wreath. Child closes or covers eyes and walks toward the wreath, trying to place berry onto wreath.
2. Repeat with each child, allowing children to have additional turns as time allows.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story God's people waited a long time for Jesus to be born. God's people were glad God promised to send His Son, Jesus. We can be glad for God's promise, too!**
- ➔ **We celebrate Christmas each year to show we are glad God sent His Son, Jesus. One way to get ready is to place a wreath on the front door. What are some things your family does to get ready for Christmas?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "God loved us and sent his Son." Why did God send His Son? (He loves us.) We are glad God sent Jesus.**



### For Younger Children

If a berry misses the wreath, the child simply moves it onto the wreath after opening eyes.

### For Older Children

Invite volunteers to wear a blindfold, to take two berries (one in either hand) or to turn around once before walking toward the wreath.

# Play to Learn

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## Art Center: Trim the Tree

### Collect

Bible, large sheet of butcher paper, green marker, masking tape, scissors, construction paper in a variety of colors, crayons or markers.

### Prepare

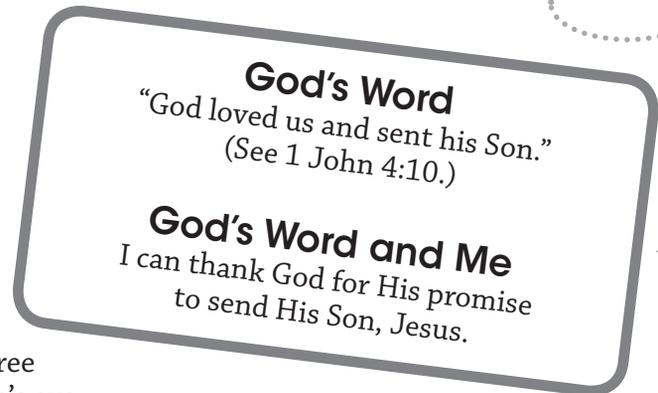
On butcher paper, draw the outline of a Christmas tree with a star on top. Tape paper tree to wall at children's eye level. Cut out construction-paper circles to make paper ornaments.

### Do

1. Children use crayons or markers to decorate paper ornaments. Make masking tape loops to attach backs of the ornaments to the tree.
2. Children place their ornaments on the tree. Display the tree in your classroom during the Christmas season.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, the angel told Mary and Joseph the good news that Jesus would be born. They were glad God promised to send His Son.**
- ➔ **We celebrate Christmas to show that we are glad God kept His promise to send Jesus. One way we might get ready for Christmas is to decorate a Christmas tree. Let's make colorful ornaments to place on our paper tree.**
- ➔ **I'm glad God kept His promise to send His Son, Jesus. That's very good news! Pray, Thank You, God, for sending Your Son, Jesus.**



### For Younger Children

Print children's names on their ornaments before children place them on the tree.

### For Older Children

Children print their names on ornaments and/or cut out their ornaments.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 14

## Block Center: Baby Blocks

### Collect

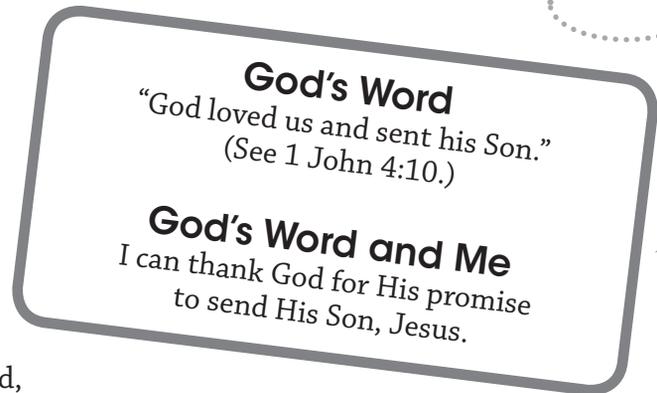
Bible, blocks, baby dolls, doll blankets.

### Do

1. Children use blocks to build beds.
2. Using baby dolls and doll blankets, children act out ways to care for babies (laying baby in bed, wrapping baby in a blanket, feeding baby, etc.).

### Talk About

- ➔ **Our Bible story today tells about God's promise to send a special baby to Mary and Joseph. God even told them what to name the baby. What was the baby's name? Let's build beds and show ways people care for babies!**
- ➔ Encourage participation by building with the blocks yourself. Then invite a child to help you. **Chloe, I'm building a bed for babies to sleep in. Would you please bring me more blocks?**
- ➔ **What do you think your family did to take care of you when you were a baby? What must parents do for babies?**
- ➔ **The Bible tells us, "God loved us and sent his Son." We can thank God for doing what He promised and sending His Son, Jesus. Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for sending Jesus.**



### For Younger Children

Demonstrate how to wrap dolls in blankets. **Mothers and fathers often wrap their babies like this. The babies stay nice and warm.** Children wrap dolls in blankets.

### For Older Children

Children assign names to dolls. Print names on index cards. Children tape cards to the beds.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 14

## Science Center: Shake It Up!

### Collect

Bible, ½ pint heavy whipping cream, several small glass bottles with lids (baby food jars work well), water, bowl, spoon, plastic knives, bread or crackers, napkins; optional—salt, small plastic containers and clean marbles.

### Prepare

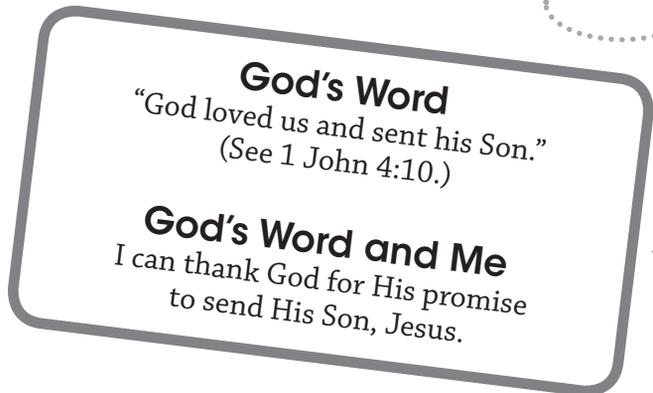
Allow the cream to sit at room temperature for about 12 hours. (Using cream straight out of the refrigerator doubles the shaking time.) Post a note alerting parents to the use of food in this activity. Also check registration forms for possible allergies.

### Do

1. Pour cream into jars, filling them half full. Put lids on tightly. (Optional: Pour cream into plastic containers and place a clean marble in with the cream. This speeds up the process.) Children take turns shaking the jars. After 5 to 7 minutes of shaking a ball of butter will form, accompanied by liquid.
2. Open the jars. Pour off the excess liquid and rinse butter in cold water. Place butter into a small bowl and press butter with spoon to make it smooth. If desired, mix a small amount (⅓ teaspoon) salt into butter. Spread butter onto bread or crackers for children to taste.

### Talk About

- ➔ **Is it easy or hard to wait for your birthday? How did you feel when the waiting was over?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, “God loved us and sent his Son.” God’s people waited a long time for Jesus to be born. But they knew God would do what He promised. Let’s work together to make butter and see what happens when we wait.**
- ➔ **Why is it sometimes hard to wait when you’re playing with your friends?**
- ➔ **God’s people waited for Jesus to come. They knew God always does what He promises! We can thank God for doing what He promised. Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to be born.**



### For Younger Children

Younger children may not have the coordination to shake the jars properly. Arrange for a parent or adult helper to assist with this center.

### For Older Children

Invite children to think of ways to help them wait patiently while making butter: sing a song, count the number of shakes, dance while shaking, etc.

# Listen to Learn

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56

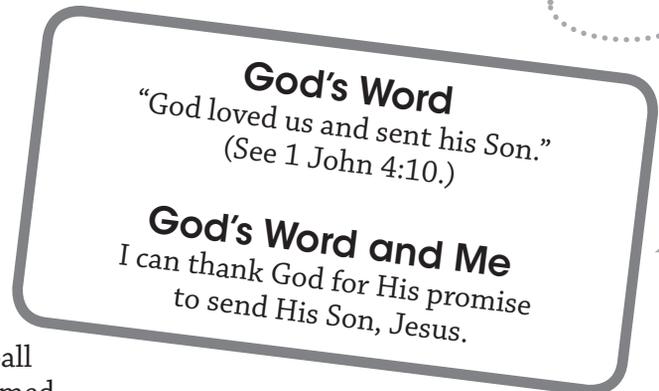
Lesson 14

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 27 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, ball.

## Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle. Roll the ball to a child, and then lead children to repeat the verse, inserting the name of that child for "us." **"God loved (Anthony) and sent his Son."** Named child rolls ball to another child, continuing until all children are named.



## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 1. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 27 pictures.

**A promise is something someone tells you he or she will do, and the person does it! Has someone ever made you a promise? Listen to find out what special promise God gave to Mary.**



A long, long time ago, God promised He would send His special Son. God's people waited and waited and waited. They wanted God to send His Son. One person who waited for God's promise was a young woman named Mary.



One day Mary was alone. She **looked up**. Standing right there beside her was an angel! Mary had never seen an angel before!



"Hello, Mary," the angel said. "God is with you." Mary was surprised and afraid. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel said. "God loves you. He has chosen you to be the mother of a very special baby. You will name the baby Jesus. He will be very great. This special baby will be God's own Son!" Mary was **glad** to hear this promise!



How exciting! Mary hurried to tell her cousin Elizabeth the wonderful news. Mary **walked** into Elizabeth's house. Just then God let Elizabeth know that Mary was going to be the mother of His Son, Jesus. Elizabeth said, "Mary, you're a special woman and your baby is very special!" Mary was glad. She thanked God. She told God she loved Him.



Very soon a man named Joseph was going to be Mary's husband. One night Joseph was **asleep**. An angel talked to him in a dream. "Mary is going to have a special baby. He is God's Son," the angel said. "You will name Him Jesus." Joseph was glad God was sending His Son, Jesus. Joseph was glad he could help care for this special baby God had promised.

## Talk About the Story

God's people had to wait a long time for something very special to happen. What did they wait for? (God to send His Son, Jesus.) We can thank God for doing what He promised—sending His Son, Jesus! Singing songs to God and praying to Him are two of the ways we can show our thanks for His promise.

## Sing to God

Let's sing a song about God's love. Lead children in singing "God Loved Us" (track 5 on CD). God showed His love by sending Jesus to be born. We sing songs to show we're glad Jesus was born!

**Option:** Invite older children to suggest motions for words in the song.

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to 1 John 4:10, say the verse to the class. **God's Son is Jesus. We can thank God for doing what He promised. God sent Jesus to be born.** Lead children in repeating the verse and clapping their hands on each word. Vary the motion by asking children to stomp their feet, pat their heads, slap their legs, etc.

## Pray to God

Children repeat the following prayer, phrase by phrase: **Dear God, . . . thank You for loving us . . . and sending Your Son, Jesus. . . . We love You. . . . In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Praise to God

Lead children in the following finger play:

**It's Christmas! It's Christmas! The candles all glow—**



**The birthday of Jesus, let everyone know!**



**It's Christmas! It's Christmas!**



**The Bible recalls**



**The birthday of Jesus, God's love gift to all.**



## Bible Story Activity Pages Center

### Collect

A copy of Activity 27 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers; optional—fabric squares, glue.

### Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue fabric squares to clothes on page.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

## Preschool Puzzle Center

### Collect

Copies of Puzzles 27 and 28 (p. 61 and p. 63 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

### Do

Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

## Read-Aloud Story Center

### Collect

A copy of Story Picture 14 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

### Do

Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.

