

# Someone Like You

**Bible:** Someone Like You (Gabriel Appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-56 (Supporting: Luke 1:5-25)*

**Bottom Line:** God can use anyone to meet others' needs.

**Memory Verse:** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in hi shall not perish but have eternal life." *John 3:16 (NIV)*

**Life App:** Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

**9:00 & 11:30**

### Compassion Profiles

- "Compassion Profile" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Markers

**10:15**

### Early Arriver

- Five-foot length of butcher paper
- Markers

## Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

## Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

**9:00 & 11:30**

### Starburst Straws

- "Starburst Story" Activity Page; one for each small group
- Colorful drinking straws; 25 for each kid
- Strong zip ties; one for each kid
- Scissors

**10:15**

### Light Write

- Flashlights; one for each kid
- Bibles

## Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- Kids' "Compassion Profiles" from Social **(9:00 & 11:30 service times only)**

## Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

# Someone Like You

## **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)**

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to give your group creative and fun ideas for ways they can be generous and rich in good deeds. Pray that God would remind you of ways your few can use their time, talents, and energy to be generous toward others. Thank God for giving you that opportunity through leading your group.*

**9:00 & 11:30**

### **Compassion Profiles**

**What You Need:** “Compassion Profile” Activity Pages, markers

#### **What You Do:**

- Hand out the Activity Pages and explain that kids are going to create a “compassion profile” of themselves, similar to a character profile an author might create.
- Instruct kids to make the person look like they do and write down personal traits for each of the four categories listed in the box.
- Collect kids’ papers to use again after Large Group.

#### **What You Say:**

“Those are some great traits you listed on your compassion profiles. I like how there’s such a variety of talents, strengths, and likes within our group. I bet those things that describe you could be important in some way. **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group to find out more about that.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

**10:15**

### **Early Arriver Idea**

**What You Need:** Butcher paper, markers

#### **What You Do:**

- Tell kids to gather around the butcher paper and markers.
- Encourage them to write down as many people as they can think of who meet their needs on a daily or weekly basis.
- As they write, ask them what those people do to meet those needs.

#### **What You Say:**

“That’s a lot of people who do something to meet your needs on a daily basis. In today’s Bible Truth we’ll hear about someone who God chose to help Him meet the needs of not just a couple of people, but of ALL the people, in the entire world, for all of time. I can’t wait for you to hear about this mystery person.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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**Life App:** Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## **Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)**

### GETTING READY

#### 1. Opener/Closer

##### What You Need:

- Host
- Adults to judge the game
- Christmas suit or footie pajamas (for Host)
- Christmas fedora (for Host)
- Decorated Christmas tree
- Terribly wrapped gift
- Gallon-size resealable bags (one for each small group), containing:
  - Odd-shaped gift (this could be anything: deodorant, action figure, toothbrush, etc.)
  - Bows
  - Tape
  - Safety scissors
  - Roll of wrapping paper (outside of the bag)
- Table

#### 2. Bible Truth

##### What You Need:

- Historyteller
- Bible
- Three voice actors (two female and one male), wearing normal clothes
- "Mary," "Elizabeth," and "Gabriel" name signs
- Three stools
- Four printed scripts (for Historyteller and three actors)

#### 3. Worship

##### What You Need:

- "Better Than the Best Thing"
- "Look At Me"
- "Sons and Daughters"

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## **Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**CG: Theme Loop Slide**

*Host enters. He's wearing a Christmas outfit. He's holding a terribly wrapped gift.*

**CG: Countdown Video**

**CG: Theme Video**

### **Opener**

**HOST:** "Hey, everyone! It's great to see you. (*Hold up the gift.*) I'm trying to wrap this Christmas present. How does it look? Pretty good? Just okay?"

"Yeah, apparently I'm not very good at wrapping gifts. It's just so complicated! There's tape, scissors, a billion different types of wrapping paper and bows, and a lot of folding—like a LOT. And then I'm never quite sure where to put the tape, or how much tape to use, or whether my fold is neat enough. Then I end up ripping through the paper and I have to start all over again. Ugh! It's just so hard. But enough about my troubles . . ."

*Toss the present to the side of the stage.*

"This month we've got an Undercover Christmas mission. We're talking about compassion!"

**CG: Life App Video**

**"Compassion is caring enough to do something about someone else's need.**

**CG: Theme TransBack Video**

"When you care about others, you want to help them. That's why we're going undercover: to find ways we can help the people around us."

“You know what? I think we might be able to practice that right now. Maybe you can help me. You see, I’ll need to wrap some gifts for my family and friends and, well, I’m terrible at it. Maybe you can teach me a few things about wrapping presents! I need everyone to circle up with your small group and get ready to play ‘The Great Wrap-It-Up Race’!

**CG: “The Great Wrap-It-Up Race” Slide**

*Ask Small Group leaders to come on stage and grab a bag of supplies and a roll of wrapping paper.*

“Here’s the deal. Inside your Leader’s bag, you have a wonderful but oddly shaped gift. You also have some wrapping supplies. When I say, ‘Go,’ you’ll have 60 seconds to wrap your gift. Our Tech Leaders will be the judges. They’ll decide which team has done the BEST wrapping job. They’re looking for neat folding, just the right amount of tape, no tears in the paper, and the perfectly placed bow.

“Is everyone ready? Then let’s play ‘The Great Wrap-It-Up Race’! On your marks, get set, go!

**CG: 60-second countdown**

**SFX: Upbeat Christmas music**

*Host offers running commentary as the groups race to wrap their gifts.*

“All right, everyone. Time’s up! Leaders, you can bring all of your beautifully wrapped gifts up to the stage to our judges.

*Small Group Leaders bring gifts to the front of the stage and set them on the table. Host holds up each item for the judges and talks about how great the wrapping is (even if it’s not).*

“Let’s give our judges some time to talk it over and make their decision.

**SFX: Upbeat Christmas music**

*Tech Leaders huddle up and then whisper their verdict to the Host.*

“All right. The judges have spoken. All of you were world-class wrappers, but today’s winner is [Leader’s name]’s group! Give them a big hand!

“Thanks for playing, everyone. Go ahead and put your wrapping supplies back in the bag, and throw away any trash on the floor. I’ll come around and get the bags from your Leaders.

*Host exits as Historyteller enters. Tech leaders set up three stools on stage.*

**SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Hello, everyone! Today I want to tell you about an ordinary girl who did something extraordinary. God had a VERY special mission for her. She might have felt overwhelmed and scared and not quite up to the challenge. But I think you’ll see how God used her in a BIG way!

“I’ve got some voice actors who are going to help us tell this Bible Truth today. That means they’re going to read lines as the different characters to liven things up. (*Calling backstage*) Come on out, guys!

*Voice actors enter, wearing the name signs. They sit on the stools.*

“Our recounting of events starts off in the town of Nazareth.

**CG: Bible Story Slide #1 (Nazareth)**

“Nazareth was a regular, small town full of regular, ordinary people doing regular, ordinary things.

“In this seemingly normal, everyday, regular type of town was a young woman named Mary.

**CG: Bible Story Slide #2 (Mary carrying a water jug)**

“Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph, and she loved God. She probably knew just about everyone in her small town, and she was a normal, everyday young woman. She wasn’t a superhero like Wonder Woman or anything like that. She was a regular girl.”

**GABRIEL APPEARS TO MARY**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “One regular, ordinary day, something very NOT ordinary happened to Mary. The angel Gabriel appeared before her!”

**CG: Bible Story Slide #3 (Gabriel appears, Mary cowering in fear)**

**MARY:** (*Reading from script*) “Ahhhh! What’s going on?”

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Mary was quite afraid, as it’s not every day that you see an angel. Gabriel told her . . .”

*Open the Bible to Luke 1:28 (NirV) and read.*

*“The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you.”*

*Nod to “Gabriel” to say his lines.*

**GABRIEL:** (*Reading from script*) “The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you” (Luke 1:28 NirV).

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Mary was really upset. She wondered what in the world was happening! The angel said . . .”

**GABRIEL:** *(Reading from script)* “Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you” (Luke 1:30 NlrV).

### **MARY WILL HAVE A SON**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “This must have been a lot for Mary to take in. She was an ordinary girl, after all, and this was NOT ordinary. But Gabriel had a message from God to tell Mary that day.”

**CG:** *Bible Story Slide #4 (Gabriel telling Mary she will have a baby)*

**GABRIEL:** *(Reading from script)* “You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God” (Luke 1:31-32 NlrV).

**CG:** *Bible Story Slide #5 (Close-up of Mary looking confused)*

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Mary was confused.”

*Nod to “Mary” to say her lines.*

**MARY:** *(Reading from script)* “How can this be happening? I’m not married” (*paraphrase of Luke 1:34 NlrV*).

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Gabriel told her that the Holy Spirit would make this happen through the power of God. And Gabriel wasn’t done. He had one more important bit of news for her.”

**CG:** *Bible Story Slide #6 (Elizabeth and Zechariah)*

**GABRIEL:** *(Reading from script)* “Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a baby even though she is old and many people thought she’d never have children. But God promised that she would, and He always keeps His promises. She has been pregnant for six months now. She and her husband Zechariah will soon have a baby” (*paraphrase of Luke 1:36-37 NlrV*).

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Mary knew this was a big deal. Elizabeth and Zechariah wanted to have children, but everyone pretty much assumed it would never happen because they were so old. But now God was going to give them a baby! Listen to what Mary said next.”

**CG:** *Bible Story Slide #7 (View behind Mary, looking at Gabriel)*

**MARY:** *(Reading from script)* “May it happen just as you’ve said. I will serve God” (*paraphrase of Luke 1:38 NlrV*).

### **MARY VISITS ELIZABETH**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “After Mary spoke, the angel left her. Mary didn’t understand how this was all happening, but she knew that she could trust God. And if God was giving Elizabeth a baby after all these years, she knew that God kept His promises. It was all so overwhelming, but Mary knew that she needed to serve God. If He picked her for this job, she knew that she would be able to do it!

“She then decided to go visit her relative Elizabeth to see this miracle God had told her about.”

**CG: Bible Story Slide #8 (Mary talking to Elizabeth, excitedly)**

*Nod to “Mary” to say her lines.*

**MARY:** *(Reading from her script)* “Elizabeth, you won’t believe what I have to tell you! I have such big news!”

*Nod to “Elizabeth” to say her lines.*

**ELIZABETH:** *(Reading from her script)* “Mary, the baby just kicked! The baby is just so excited to see you and your . . . baby.”

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Whoa. Elizabeth already knew that Mary was going to have a baby! Listen to what else she said.”

**ELIZABETH:** *(Reading from her script)* “God has blessed you more than other women. And blessed is the child you will have! But why is God so kind to me? Why has the mother of my Lord come to me? As soon as I heard the sound of your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy. You are a woman God has blessed. You have believed that the Lord would keep his promises to you!” (Luke 1:42-45 NIV).

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Not only did Elizabeth know about the baby, she also knew WHO the baby would be. She knew that Mary was carrying the Son of God—Jesus! Mary was filled with emotion. God had chosen HER! She sang these words.”

**CG: Bible Story Slide #9 (Mary singing)**

**MARY:** *(Reading from her script—speaking, not singing)* “My soul gives glory to the Lord. My spirit delights in God my Savior. He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important. . . . He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him. He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago” (Luke 1:46-47, 54-55 NIV).

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### **WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. Then she returned home to her amazing, extraordinary mission: being the mother of the Son of God. She looked forward to seeing how God was going to use her and her Son to save His people. Mary was just an ordinary girl, but God was showing her that He can use ordinary people to do REALLY important things.

“Let’s give a big hand to our voice actors. *(To voice actors)* Thanks for your help!

*Voice actors exit.*

“Here’s what we need to remember today.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “God can use anyone to meet others’ needs.

“Mary probably didn’t feel like she was ready to be the mother of God’s Son. But she was willing to do it because she trusted God. Remember what she said in her song?”

*Open the Bible to Luke 1:46-48 (NirV) and read.*

*“My soul gives glory to the Lord. My spirit delights in God my Savior. He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important.*

“You might not feel like you’re important enough or good enough to do what you know God wants you to do. You might not feel like you’re smart or talented enough. But the truth is, God can use you to meet the needs of the people around you. **[Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others’ needs.**

“As we continue with our Undercover Christmas, I want you to remember that. God can use YOU to do big and important things. He can use you to show compassion. Let’s pray.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### Pray

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Dear God, thank You for Mary. Thank You for showing us how You can use ordinary, everyday people like her and like ALL of us here in this room. Help us to trust You like she did. Help us to show compassion and meet the needs of the people You’ve put in our lives. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, you can bring that on up now.”

### Worship

**HOST:** “Will you please stand with me and lift some praises and worship to our amazing, loving, and giving God.”

**CG: “Better Than the Best Thing”**

“John 13:35 tells us that Jesus said: *“If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples” (NirV).* I think it’s so amazing that because of how we live and show love, others can know that we love Jesus. God has freely given us His love. Let’s spread that love to everyone we know. Sing this with me.”

**CG: “Look At Me”**

“Here’s another great song that reminds us that we are not in this alone and that God’s love is for ALL people. It’s called Sons and Daughters. By the way, if you have any prayer requests we would love to pray with you during this song. Here we go.”

**CG: “Sons and Daughters”**

### Closer

**HOST:** “Wow. That was awesome!”

“And, what an amazing Bible Truth we had today! If you’re like me, I bet you’ve sometimes felt like Mary did when the angel appeared. Maybe you’ve felt overwhelmed or like you aren’t good enough or smart enough to do something important. I’m sure Mary felt that way at first. But the truth is, God can use anyone to do what He wants to do in the world.

“He can use YOU. He can use you no matter how young or how old you are. He can use you even if you aren’t the smartest or strongest person, and even if you aren’t the fastest one at finding Bible verses. God can use you no matter what.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “God can use anyone to meet others’ needs.**

“So what are some things YOU could do to show compassion? Think about the people in your life. Think about what they need. How could God use YOU to meet those needs? Maybe it’s doing extra chores to make things easier for your parents. Maybe it’s talking to the kid at school who doesn’t have a lot of friends. Find a way to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated.** Look around and see how God could use YOU to show compassion!

“Remember, we show compassion because God first showed compassion to US. Our Memory Verse for this month might just be the most famous verse in the entire Bible. It’s John 3:16.

**CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide**

**CG: Memory Verse Slide**

*“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life, John 3:16.*

“God loves us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to the earth for us. Because He did, we should love others too. We should make others our mission—our UNDERCOVER mission. This week, look for ways you can meet others’ needs and share compassion everywhere you go.

“You’ll get to talk some more in Small Group about how you can show compassion. I’ll see you later!”

*Dismiss children to their Small Groups.*

**CG: Small Group Slide**

**CG: Theme Loop Slide**

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**Memory Verse:** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." *John 3:16 (NIV)*

**Life App:** Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

**9:00 & 11:30**

### 1. Starburst Straws

**What You Need:** "Starburst Story" Activity Page, 25 colorful drinking straws per kid, strong zip ties, scissors, and completed sample craft

#### What You Do:

- Give each kid a zip tie and set the pile of straws in the center.
- Read the Starburst Story, and every time they hear about God using someone unlikely in His plan to meet other's needs, they can lay five straws across their zip tie.
- When the Bible Truth is over, instruct them to fasten their zip ties around their pile of straws and pull as tightly as they can without any straws popping out.
- *Note: You may have to help younger kids.*
- Then let kids trim some of the straws with scissors so that there are different lengths.
- Encourage kids to try bending the straws in half below and above the ties, if they don't stick out already, to make their creation look more like a starburst.

#### What You Say:

"These are pretty cool decorations! Of all the things to make Christmas decorations out of, I don't think drinking straws would be my first guess. And if I was going to send a baby to rescue the world, I don't think I'd choose a young girl from a tiny town to be His mom! One of the things that the Christmas reminds us of is that **[Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others' needs.** He used Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Zechariah in our Bible Truth today. God had used others in the past like David and Gideon and Ruth and Esther. God kind of makes a habit of using unlikely people.

"That could even mean some of you! There is every possibility that God is preparing to use YOU to meet someone's needs this season. It's what Undercover Christmas is all about! So be ready and be on the lookout for people in need. Is there someone you already know who has a need you could meet? *(Allow for discussion.)* What are some ways you could be ready to meet others' needs?" *(Allow for discussion.)*

**10:15****Light Write****What You Need:** Flashlights, Bibles**What You Do:**

- Hand out Bibles and flashlights.
- Guide kids to look up John 3:16 in their Bibles.
- Assign a word or phrase from the verse to each kid.
- Instruct kids to use their flashlights to write their word/phrase (by tracing its outline) on the floor or wall.
- Let them practice a few times, all at the same time.
- Then tell them to “light write” the words in order.
- Repeat several times, encouraging kids to go faster each time.
- You might want to mix things up by putting kids in a random order (instead of them standing in order of the verse) or by reassigning words/phrases after a couple rounds.
- Collect kids’ flashlights to use again next week.

**What You Say:**

“Today we’re learning that **[Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others’ needs.** But who did He use to meet our greatest need? (*Pause.*) Of course! Jesus met our greatest need, as we read in our memory verse. God loved us SO MUCH that He sent Jesus to die for us so that we can believe in Him and live with Him forever. And you know what else? God can use all of us to tell others about how Jesus met our greatest need. It doesn’t matter what you’re good at or not good at. It doesn’t matter what you like or don’t like—ALL of us can tell others about how God had compassion on us and sent Jesus.”

**All Service Times**

**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)**

**What You Need:**

**9:00 & 11:30**-Kids' "Compassion Profiles"

**10:15**-No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Hand out the profiles again. **(9:00 & 11:30 Only)**
- Instruct kids to take a minute to silently pray.
- They should ask God to help them use their talents and likes to meet others' needs.
- Encourage them to ask God to show them practical ways they can do so.
- Close with the prayer below.

**What You Say:**

"God, thank You for making each of us unique. Help us all to use the talents, skills, and likes you've given us to meet the needs of the people in our lives. Show us ways we can do that every single day. Help us to be people who show Your love by the way we love others. In Jesus' name, amen."

# Compassion Profile

Talents:

Strengths:

Likes:

Dislikes:



**What to Do:**  
Print one for each kid.

Mary was a girl from a small town called Nazareth. It was not known for anything much and no one of any importance had ever been born there. For someone from Nazareth to hear from an angel, well, that would be pretty UNLIKELY.

Mary was a normal young woman from a normal family. They had some great ancestors in the past, but it would be so UNLIKELY that anyone from her family would do more than live in their village and tend sheep or build furniture.

But one day while Mary was minding her own business, an angel appeared to her! She wasn't expecting a messenger from God or anyone else. The angel told her the Lord was pleased with her, a greeting that she found a bit UNLIKELY. What had she ever done that the Lord would even notice her?

But the angel announced something incredible—that she would have a baby! That was the strangest thing of all and very UNLIKELY for a young unmarried girl in her village. Why didn't the angel go to one of her cousins, with four kids running around? She knew nothing of being a mother.

To comfort her, the angel even told her about another UNLIKELY but wonderful event. Her cousin Elizabeth, the one who never had children, was expecting a baby too! Even though one woman was quite old and the other quite young, God chose them as part of His rescue plan for all people.

Mary agreed that if the Lord had planned all these wonderful, but unusual things, she would be willing to follow Him.

The angel disappeared and she ran off to visit Elizabeth and tell Joseph about the strange and wonderful, and yes, UNLIKELY things that were happening!

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**What to Do:**

Print one for each small group.

**Starburst Story**

December 2018, Week 2, Small Group K5  
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