

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 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.

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

9:00 & 11:30

Under Pressure

- Drinking straws; one for each kid
- Four jars or wide cups; fill two with water

10:15

Who

- No supplies needed

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

Others' Needs

- "Others' Needs" cards; one set for each small group
- Funky glasses
- Plastic container containing:
 - Water bottle
 - Child's winter coat
 - Non-perishable food item
 - Children's shoes
 - Box of tissues
 - Pad of paper
 - Box of BAND-AIDs
 - Towel

10:15

Flashlight Limbo

- Large Flashlight

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

- Straws; one for each kid

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

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

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's Bible Truth.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to give kids some opportunities to meet others' needs. Pray that kids would recognize these opportunities and have the confidence to show godly compassion in those situations. Pray that kids would be able to see past any barriers and take on the challenge of showing compassion.

9:00 & 11:30

Under Pressure

What You Need: Drinking straws, four wide cups (two filled with water)

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Place the full cups of water in front of the teams at one end of your Small Group area, and place the empty cups at the other side.
- Ask the group what tool or method would be best to transport water from the near cup to the far one.
- Allow for responses before handing out the drinking straws.
- Demonstrate how to place the straw in the water so it's not touching the bottom, and then cover the open end of the straw with the tip of your finger. The pressure created will keep the water inside when the straw is removed.
- Take the straw—held horizontally or vertically but not upside down—across the room to the empty cup and pour some in.
- Then teams can run a relay to see which team can move all of their water to the other side of the room first.

What You Say:

"This seemed like a really unlikely tool to carry water, but with the right guidance, we could do something pretty cool! **[Transition] Let's go to Large Group to hear about another unlikely helper.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15**Who?****What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:**

- Lead kids in a game similar to “Guess Who?” where you’ll use real people.
- Guide kids to stand in a circle.
- Secretly select one child to be your “mystery” child.
- Invite kids to identify who you chose by asking a series of yes-or-no questions, such as: “Is the person you chose wearing tennis shoes? Is the person you chose wearing boots? Is the person you chose wearing red? Is the person you chose a girl?”
- If anyone standing does not qualify based on the yes-or-no questions ask him/her to sit down in order to eliminate options.
- When kids correctly guess the “mystery” child, begin the game again.

What You Say:

“In our Bible Truth today, we’ll hear how God chose someone for a very special reason. **[Transition]**
Let’s go to Large Group to find out who God’s mystery person was.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- One kid volunteer to be the "guesser"
- Christmas attire for the Host (same as last week)
- Decorated Christmas tree on stage
- Four "Christmas Corners" signs taped around the room
- Blindfold
- Three to five candy canes

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- "Gabriel Appears to Mary" Story Art
- Black permanent marker

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- "Better than the Best Thing"
- "Look at Me"
- "Sons & 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 wearing the same Christmas attire as last week.

CG: Countdown Video

CG: Theme Video

Opener

HOST: "Hello, everyone! I'm so glad to see you. Christmas is coming fast, and let me tell you, I am READY! I'm celebrating early because I just love Christmas so much.

"There's a lot to be excited about at Christmas—like treats, presents, and family time. The BEST part of this time of year is that we remember what God did for us at Christmas by sending us His Son, Jesus. He showed us some big-time compassion!

CG: Life App Video

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

CG: Theme TransBack Video

"God knew we needed a Savior—a Rescuer. That's why He sent us Jesus. We can follow His example, too. We can show compassion to the people He's put in our lives. ANYONE can show compassion. You, me, your Small Group Leader—anyone! Our top-secret Undercover Christmas mission is to show compassion everywhere we go.

"One fun way to do that is by sharing our Christmas joy with the world. Are you feeling Christmassy? *(Pause for response.)* Good! Well, then let's play a fun Christmas game I like to call 'Christmas Corners'!

SFX: "Main Title" from Elf (Original Motion Picture Score)

"If you've ever played 'Four Corners' before, this game is kind of like that—but it's Christmassy! First, go ahead and grab a partner. You'll stay with this partner the whole time. If you want to have a group of three, that's cool too.

"If Buddy the Elf has taught me anything, it's that there are four Christmas food groups.

"Candy.

Hold up the (Christmas) candy poster.

"Candy canes.

Hold up the candy cane poster.

"Candy corns.

Hold up the candy corn poster.

"And syrup.

Hold up the syrup poster.

"Those are our four corners!

Tape the posters in the four corners.

"Candy . . . candy canes . . . candy corns . . . and syrup.

"Each time the music starts, you and your partner need to SILENTLY choose a corner to go to. We'll also have a guesser who will be blindfolded. When the music stops, our guesser will call out one of the four corners. If he or she calls out YOUR corner, you've got to go back to your seat and sit down. We'll keep playing until we have one winning pair!

"Raise your hand if you want to be our guesser. (*Pause for response.*) Let's see whose birthday is closest to Christmas. If your birthday is in December and you want to be the guesser, keep your hand up.

Ask the kids with their hands up when their birthdays are. Choose whoever is closest to Christmas. (Make sure to pick a kid who actually wants to be the guesser.) In case of a tie, do a quick round of rock/paper/scissors.

(*To the guesser*) "All right, [guesser's name]. Let's get you blindfolded.

Put a blindfold on the guesser.

"When you want the music to start, say, 'Smiling's my favorite,' just like Buddy. When the music stops, I'll ask you to call out a corner. You'll choose candy, candy canes, candy corns, or syrup.

(To audience) “Is everyone ready to choose a corner? *(To the guesser)* All right, [guesser’s name]. Go ahead and say, ‘Smiling’s my favorite!’”

GUESSER: “Smiling’s my favorite!”

SFX: “Main Title” from Elf (Original Motion Picture Score)

Keep an eye out for any kids that don’t have a partner, and join them with another pair. When all the kids have chosen a corner, stop the music.

HOST: “All right, [guesser’s name]. Which corner do you choose?”

Get a response and instruct all the kids in that corner to sit down.

Keep playing rounds until you have one winning pair. As you get down to just a few pairs, tell them each pair needs to pick a different corner.

“That was so fun! Congratulations to our winning pair and to our awesome guesser, [guesser’s name].

Give candy canes to the winners and guesser.

“Everyone head back to your regular place because it’s everyone’s favorite time...Bible Time!”

Host exits. Historyteller enters

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “It’s true. The greatest gift in all the world is with us now! But it wasn’t always that way. Today we’re going to think back on what it must have been like BEFORE Jesus was born. Let’s start with a town called Nazareth.

On the packet of art, flip over the first blank page to reveal the drawing of Nazareth.

“Nazareth was a small town, so everybody kind of knew each other. One of the people who lived in the town was a girl named Mary.

Draw a stick figure of Mary in the town as you continue talking.

“Mary was a typical girl. We don’t know much about her life before this point, but I can imagine it wasn’t extremely exciting. Probably not overly good or terribly bad. But the excitement level was DEFINITELY about to change.”

GABRIEL APPEARS

HISTORYTELLER: “Mary was about to have a very special visitor. One day, as she was just going about her business—maybe going to fetch some water from the well—an angel appeared!

Flip the page to reveal the drawing of the angel from the back. Draw a stick figure of Mary in the upper left corner of the picture so it appears she’s looking at the angel.

“The angel’s name was Gabriel, and he had a message for Mary from God himself! Listen to what he said to her.

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

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

“The Bible says that Mary was very upset to hear his words. I mean, you’d probably be scared too if an angel appeared to you!”

Draw an open mouth on Mary’s face.

GABRIEL’S MESSAGE

HISTORYTELLER: “But Gabriel assured Mary that his message was GOOD news. Check out what he said.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:30-32 (NirV) and read.

“Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. 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.

“Wow! Talk about some shocking news. Mary was going to be the mother of the Son of God!

Draw Mary’s eyes as wide circles.

“Gabriel had even more news about Mary’s relative Elizabeth. Here’s what he said.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:36-37 (NirV) and read.

“Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That’s because what God says will always come true.

“You’d think Mary would be in shock at this point, but listen to how she responded to the angel.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:38 (NirV) and read.

“I serve the Lord. . . . May it happen to me just as you said it would.

“The angel left, and soon Mary took off too. She was dying to get to Elizabeth to see what she had to say about all of this.”

MARY VISITS ELIZABETH

HISTORYTELLER: “Mary traveled nearly 100 miles to see Elizabeth.

Flip the page to reveal the picture of Elizabeth inside her house. Begin drawing stick figure Mary as you continue.

“When Mary walked into the house and greeted Elizabeth, the baby inside Elizabeth jumped! The Holy Spirit had already revealed to Elizabeth that Mary would have a baby, too. Elizabeth called Mary: *the mother of my Lord (Luke 1:43 NIV)*. She told Mary that she was a woman God had blessed.

“Mary’s heart was filled to overflowing with all that had happened and all that was to come. She poured out her thoughts in a song. Listen to the words.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:46-55 (NIV) 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. . . . He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him. . . . He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago.”

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. She saw how God was at work in Elizabeth’s life. Then she returned home. She must have been so excited to see how God would use her and the baby he was sending to save His people.

Flip to the last blank page.

“You might be wondering why I drew Mary as a stick figure. Well, for one, I’m not a professional artist. But I also wanted you to imagine how out-of-place Mary must have felt in God’s plan. I can imagine that many times she thought there must be some mistake. Why would SHE be chosen to carry the Son of God?

“She knew the stories of her people—that God had sent messengers in the past. But she didn’t come from an important family, and she had probably never traveled far from her village. Now it was her job to bring the Son of God into the world—the One who would be the Savior for all of humankind!

“Mary’s part in God’s plan shows us something really important.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

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

“Did you catch that first part? God can use ANYONE. That means God can use YOU. No matter how old you are. No matter how young you are, no matter how much money you have or how many toys or clothes you have, He can use you even if you don’t think you’re the smartest, fastest, or strongest person. He can use you even if you don’t think you know all the right Bible verses or how to pray really long prayers. God can use you no matter what, because **[Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others’ needs.**

“Let’s thank Him for that!”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for using a regular girl like Mary to bring Your Son, our Savior, into the world. Thanks for the reminder that You can use US, too. Help us to discover some of the ways You want to use us as we show compassion to the people in our lives. Help us to see others’ needs, and then show us how we can meet them. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“If you have an offering with you today, raise your hand and we will bring the bucket over to you.”

Host enters as Historyteller enters.

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: [Bottom Line] “God can use anyone to meet others’ needs. Say that with me.”

HOST and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “God can use anyone to meet others’ needs.”

HOST: “I hope you’re as excited about that truth today as I am. No matter who you are, God can use you!”

“I mean, think about some of the people God used that we can read about in the Bible. Moses wasn’t very good at talking, but God used him to lead the Israelites out of slavery. David was only a shepherd boy when God picked him to defeat a giant and become king of a nation.

“And then there’s Mary. God chose her—just an ordinary girl—out of everyone in the whole world to be Jesus’ mom!

“No matter what you’re good at—or NOT good at—God can use you! The trick is paying attention to what others’ needs are and then choosing to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated**. If you do that, you’ll find that **[Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others’ needs**—including you!

“Let’s head on to Small Group now, because I have a feeling we’ll learn more about how God can use us to meet others’ needs. Let’s get that party started!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide
CG: Theme Loop Slide

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

9:00 & 11:30

Others' Needs

Note: This can be done as an environment-wide activity.

What You Need: "Others' Needs" cards; funky glasses; box containing: water bottle, child's coat or jacket, nonperishable food item, kids' shoes, box of tissues, pad of paper, a box of BAND-AIDs, towel

What You Do:

- Guide your group to line up at one end of your environment.
- Set the box of items at the opposite each end.
- Guide the first child in line to put on the funky glasses. (Allow a few seconds for the inevitable giggles!)
- Stand beside the box and hold the "Others' Needs" cards so they're fanned out with the backs facing the kids.
- At your signal, lead the first child to run to you, pick a card, look at the need, find an object in the box that can help meet that need, pull it out, and run back to his team with both the object and the card.
- He then gives the glasses to the next child in line, who may run after she puts on the glasses.
- The relay continues until each need is met by an object in the box.
- At the end of the game, quickly debrief the needs and how the items could help meet those needs.
- *Variations:* Divide your group into two teams. Simply separate the needs cards and corresponding items accordingly. Or play the game environment-wide.

What You Say:

"No matter who you are, God can use you. He can use you no matter how old you are, no matter if you're a boy or a girl, and no matter what you're good at or NOT good at doing.

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time God used you, even if you didn't think you were up for the task. If possible, tell how others got to see God's love as a result.)

"God used me to meet others' needs, and you know what? God made you so that YOU can meet others' needs, too. So remember: **[Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others' needs—even you!**"

10:15**Flashlight Limbo****What You Need:** Flashlight**What You Do:**

- Guide the kids to sit in a circle with you.
- Starting with the kid on your left, tell kids to go around the circle and each say one sentence of something that happened in today's Bible Truth.
- Encourage them to try to go in order of what happened.
- After they've retold the Bible truth, instruct kids to line up to your left.
- Turn out the lights (if possible), and turn on your flashlight.
- Hold the flashlight at your chest level with the light shining straight out from you, as if the light beam is a limbo pole.
- If any kids don't know what limbo is, you will need to explain it and have one kid demonstrate.
- Explain that you want someone to say one reason why Mary might not seem to be the most qualified person for the job of being the mother of God's Son (very young, not from an important family, from a small town, etc.).
- After they say it, everyone will limbo under the light beam.
- Then someone else will say another reason, you will lower the light by a few inches, and they will limbo again.
- Continue this until they can't think of any more reasons.

What You Say:

"It seemed like Mary had a lot of things going against her, but God used her anyway! **[Bottom Line]** **God can use anyone to meet others' needs.** (Move the flashlight beam so it's higher than all kids' heads when they're standing up straight.) Let's limbo again! (Let kids limbo.) And again! Do it faster! (Allow kids to run under the light beam several times.) Okay, you can sit down now.

"God used Mary, because He knew she was the right person for the job. He knew her talents and strengths. He knew her likes and dislikes. And He knew they were exactly what Jesus needed in a mother. God also knows everything about You. He knows your talents, strengths, likes, and dislikes, and He knows that you can meet others' needs in amazing ways just like He used Mary. **[Make It Personal]** (Tell kids about a way God has used your skills and likes to meet others' needs in an amazing way.) Say the Bottom Line with me: **[Bottom Line]** **God can use anyone to meet others' needs!**"

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)****What You Need:** Straws**What You Do:**

- Hand out the straws and gather in a circle.
- Direct the kids to practice taking deep breaths in through their noses and out through the straws.
- Pray this simple prayer as your kids stay (relatively) still and focus on what you're saying as they breathe in through their nose and out through the straw.
- *(Kids breathe in.)* "Lord *(kids breathe out)*, use us."
- Encourage kids to think about the ways God could use them to meet someone's needs this week.
- When you've taken a several breaths in this way, tell kids put the straws down.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You for being willing to use anyone in Your plan—even us. Please help us to see the needs around us and be ready to act as we follow You. Amen."

Remind kids to keep their eyes peeled for secret agent undercover Christmas missions they can pull off this week, since **[Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others' needs.**

As adults arrive to pick up make sure everyone takes home a Parent Cue and a Got Time Card. Encourage kids and parents to work on the God Time Cards and return them for a trip to the treasure box.



What to Do:
Print on cardstock and cut apart. Make one set for each small group.



What to Do:

Print on cardstock and cut apart. Make one set for each small group.

Others' Needs 2/2

December 2018, Week 2, Small Group K1
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