

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

Early Arriver

- Five-foot length of butcher paper
- Markers

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

Angel!

- 8-12 cup white basket-style coffee filters; one for each kid
 - Fine-tipped washable markers
 - Old-fashioned clothespins with no spring (you can find them online or in the craft section of some big box stores); one for each kid
- NOTE: You'll also need clothespins for Week 3 Groups: "Gift Wrapped."*
- Optional:*
- Tie six-inch strips of thin ribbon (gold is great!) into loops; one for each kid
 - Low-temp glue gun

10:15

Anyone

- Bible marked at John 3:16
- "Rebus Verse" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Markers or crayons

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

- "The Greatest Need" Activity Page; one for each small group

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

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

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

Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: Butcher paper, markers

What You Do:

- Tell kids to gather around the butcher paper.
- Encourage them to think of as many people as they can think who meet their needs on a daily or weekly basis.
- As you write their answers on the butcher paper 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.

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:

- Historyteller
- Bible
- Pre-selected actress (must be female)
- Long piece of rope and clothespins to create a costume clothesline (see "What You Do")
- Mary costume (female biblical costume with a long brown or black wig)
- Gabriel costume (angel costume or white robe with a headband halo)
- Elizabeth costume (female biblical costume with a gray wig)
- Prop bin
- Handheld mic
- Pillow

3. Worship

What You Need:

- "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. Ooh, and songs. Hey, let's sing some songs now. They are not exactly Christmas songs, yet but they are songs about God and Christ! Stand up and sing with me."

Worship

HOST: "Here we go!

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"* (NIV). 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"

That was awesome! You know, 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.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! (*Hold up Bible.*) Today’s Bible Truth is about someone who, in many ways, was very ordinary—just like you or me. This very ordinary person was chosen by God to do something very, VERY important. We learn about her in the third book of the New Testament of the Bible called Luke. It was written by a person named—you guessed it—LUKE! He learned all about the life of Jesus and the people who followed Jesus and wrote it down for people to know the truth about Jesus. He tells us that this very ordinary person was a girl named Mary.”

Actress enters. She puts on the brown/black wig and stands behind the Mary costume on the clothesline.

ANGELIC VISIT

HISTORYTELLER: “Mary was a young woman who lived in a town called Nazareth over 2,000 years ago. She probably spent most of her time helping her mother take care of their home, preparing meals for the family, and washing the clothes. One day, Mary was going about her daily activities when something incredible happened. An angel showed up at her house! Everybody say, ‘Whaaaaat?’”

KIDS: “Whaaaaat?”

Actress takes off the wig, puts on the halo, and stands behind the angel costume on the clothesline.

HISTORYTELLER: “That’s right! An actual, real, live angel named Gabriel showed up to talk to Mary. I don’t know about you, but if an actual angel showed up in my living room out of nowhere, I’d probably flip out! Then the angel started TALKING. Everybody say, ‘Whaaaaat?’”

KIDS: “Whaaaaat?”

HISTORYTELLER: “It’s true! This is what the angel said to Mary.”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:28 (NirV) and hand it to the actress. Hold up the handheld mic for her.

ACTRESS (as ANGEL): “*The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you.*”

HISTORYTELLER: “Mary was, understandably, a little frightened. She wondered why the angel had come.”

BIG NEWS

HISTORYTELLER: “But the angel said this to her.”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:30-32 (NirV) and hand it to the actress. Hold up the handheld mic for her.

ACTRESS (as ANGEL): *“Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God.”*

HISTORYTELLER: “WHOA. Did you hear that? The angel told Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God! And that wasn’t all. You see, Mary had a cousin named Elizabeth.

Actress takes off the halo, puts on the gray wig, and stands behind the Elizabeth costume on the clothesline.

“Elizabeth was much older than Mary. The angel said that even though Elizabeth was older, she was going to have a baby, because what God says will always come true (*paraphrase of Luke 1:36-37*).

“Mary caught her breath and tried to take it all in.

Actress takes off the gray wig, puts on the brown/black wig, and stands behind the Mary costume on the clothesline.

“Listen to what she said to the angel.”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:30-32 (NirV) and hand it to the actress. Hold up the handheld mic for her.

ACTRESS (as MARY): *“I serve the Lord. . . . May it happen to me just as you said it would.”*

HISTORYTELLER: “Then the angel left.”

Actress takes off the halo, puts on the brown/black wig, and stands behind the Mary costume on the clothesline.

ROAD TRIP

HISTORYTELLER: “Can you imagine how Mary must have been feeling? God—the One who created the entire world—was trusting her to be the mom of His Son! Wow, what a miracle! I bet Mary couldn’t even believe it! Maybe that’s why she decided to go visit someone else who was experiencing a miracle too—her cousin Elizabeth.

“Remember, the angel had told Mary that Elizabeth was going to have a baby, even though she was very old. And even though Mary would have to walk more than 100 miles, she decided to go and see Elizabeth.”

Actress takes off the brown/black wig, puts on the gray wig, and stands behind the Elizabeth costume on the clothesline.

“When Elizabeth saw Mary, she was so excited, but she wasn’t the only one! When Mary walked

through the door, the baby inside Elizabeth jumped for joy!

Actress pushes the pillow in the Elizabeth costume so it looks like a baby moving in her belly.

“Can you believe that? Everybody say, ‘Whaaaaat?’”

KIDS: “Whaaaaat?”

HISTORYTELLER: “That’s right! In the book of Luke, we read that the baby inside Elizabeth actually jumped. It’s almost like Elizabeth’s baby knew that the Son of God was near. So cool! Elizabeth told Mary that she and the baby growing inside her were both blessed.

Actress takes off the gray wig, puts on the brown/black wig, and stands behind the Mary costume on the clothesline.

“Mary’s heart was filled with joy and happiness because of all God was doing. He was going to rescue His people as He had promised so many years earlier, and He had chosen Mary to help with the plan! Mary’s heart was so full that she sang these words.”

Open the Bible to Luke 1:46-55 (NirV) and hand it to the actress. Hold up the handheld mic for her.

ACTRESS (as MARY): “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 more months, and then she returned home. She was excited to see all that God had planned for her.

“After all, the baby God was sending was Jesus, His Son! Jesus was the One who would rescue the world from sin so that we could have a relationship with our perfect God.”

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“Read that with me. “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)*

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“It just goes to show you that **[Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others’ needs**—even someone who seemed so ordinary, like Mary. God can use you and me, too. **[Bottom Line] He can use anyone to meet others’ needs.**

“Let’s pray.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “God, thank You for sending Your only Son, Jesus, to save the whole world. Thank You for choosing someone like Mary to be part of your plan. It helps us remember that You can use anyone to meet the needs of others. Help us to be ready to do that. Help us to trust You like Mary did. Help us to show Your compassion to the people around us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Historyteller and actress exit.

Closer

HOST: “Wow. I think it’s amazing how God used Mary to be part of His plan to bring Jesus into the world. Mary was a regular, ordinary person, and God used her to be part of the most amazing miracle we could ever imagine!

“That’s super exciting for me to think about. You know why? Because of the miracle of Christmas, for sure. But it also reminds me that God can use anyone to do big things for Him—people like you and people like me. No matter how old you are, no matter how much money you have, even if you aren’t the strongest or the smartest or the fastest at finding Bible verses, God can use YOU!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

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

“How do you think He could use YOU to meet others’ needs? There are lots of ways to do that. You could play a game or tell a joke to brighten someone’s day when they’re feeling down. You could draw a picture to show your mom or dad that you love and appreciate them. Everyone needs to hear that, don’t you think?

“Think of some ways you can **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated.** Make others your mission. That’s what showing compassion is all about! In fact, you get to talk some more about that in Small Group. You can head that way now and if you have an offering, go ahead and bring that on up now. Have fun!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

Someone Like You

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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.

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

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

9:00 & 11:30

Angel!

What You Need: Coffee filters, markers, clothespins (with ribbons glued on), and completed sample craft.

What You Do:

- Give each child a coffee filter, and set out the markers.
- Guide kids to trace their hands onto the filters. They can trace them in whatever ways and as many times as they choose. *(Provide hand-over-hand assistance as needed.)*
- Finally, give each child a clothespin.
- Show kids how to scrunch their coffee filters in the middles and insert them into the clothespins. *(Again, provide help as needed.)*

What You Say:

"When God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary, Mary heard a VERY special message. She heard that God wanted to use HER to help meet the world's greatest need—the need for a Savior!

"This week, let your angels and handprints remind you that God can use YOU to meet other's needs, too. What are some ways that God could use you to meet others' needs? *(I can help my little brother get dressed, I can invite someone who's lonely to play with me, I can help clean my classroom, I can help make cookies to give away, etc.)* Great ideas! So remember, **[Bottom Line]** God can use anyone to meet others' needs. And that means He can use you!"

10:15**Anyone**

What You Need: Bible marked at John 3, “Rebus Verse” Activity Pages, markers or crayons

What You Do:

- Give each kid an Activity Page, and then invite a child to open the Bible where marked.
- Guide kids to point to the pictures as you “read” the verse together.
- Unpack the word “anyone,” emphasizing that it truly means ANYONE—young or old, boy or girl, rich or poor!
- Guide kids to point to the outline of the person.
- Invite them to color the figure either like themselves or like someone they know who needs to believe in Jesus. As they color, again emphasize that anyone who believes in Jesus will live forever with God.

What You Say:

“God loved the world SO MUCH that He sent His own Son to be born on earth. He did it so that ANYONE who believes in Jesus can live forever with God.

“Who do you know that needs to hear about Jesus? (*Pause.*) Knowing Jesus is the greatest need that everyone has. And you know what? God can use you to help meet that need by telling others about Him.

“So how can you tell others about Jesus? (*I can share my Bible with them, I can invite them to church, I can be kind to them like Jesus would, etc.*) Great ideas! So always remember that **[Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others’ needs—including you!**”

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)**

What You Need: “The Greatest Need” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Show “The Greatest Need” card to each child.
- Invite kids to tell what the child needs (*presents, a hug, a friend, Jesus, etc.*), and then suggest ways they could meet those needs.
- Make sure kids understand they can help meet others’ needs without money. They can draw pictures or make cards or be a friend by playing with someone who is sad.
- Use the conversation below to lead kids into prayer.

What You Say:

“You may feel like God can’t use you to show others His love. But no matter who you are, God can use you. Just think of some of the people in the Bible who God used. There was Moses. He wasn’t very good at talking, but God used him to lead the Israelites out of slavery. And David, remember him? He 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 out of everyone in the whole world to be Jesus’ mom!

“And you know what? God can use you, too, because **[Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others’ needs.** Let’s pray.”

Lead kids in prayer, thanking God that He can use anyone to meet others’ needs and asking Him to help you and the kids meet others’ needs this week.

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell their parents today’s Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others’ needs.**

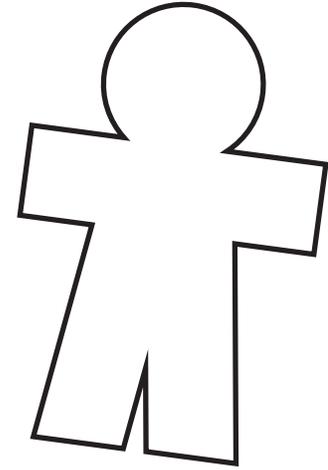
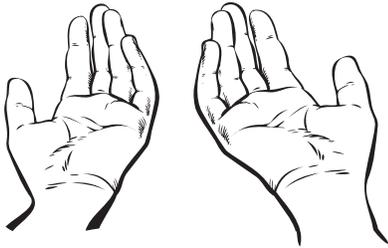
God



For God

so loved

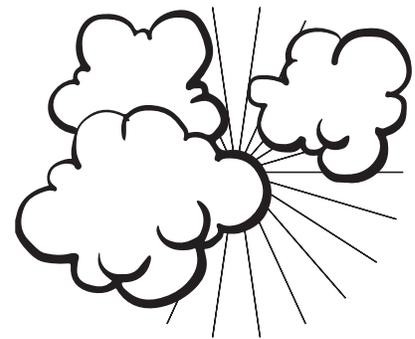
the world



that he gave

his one and
only Son,

that whoever



believes

in Him

shall not perish but
have eternal life.

— John 3:16, NIV

What to Do:

Print one copy for each kid.

Rebus Verse (NIV)

December 2018, Week 2, Small Group K1
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What to Do:

Print on cardstock. Make one for each small group.

The Greatest Need

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