

WEEK 2: Mary

Big Idea: When we listen to God, we learn our purpose.

HANGOUT

1. In advance, fill an opaque bag with a variety of household items (e.g., can opener, chopsticks, screwdriver, drain stopper, plastic closure for bread/milk bag, measuring tape, thread spool, shoelace, paper clip, eraser, phone charger, etc.).
2. Gather the kids together. Ask if anyone knows what the word “purpose” means. Explain that it’s the reason something or someone exists. A purpose could also be an aim or goal. Let everyone know that you’re going to play a guessing game that explores the purpose of some mystery items. Invite one of the kids to reach into the bag and grab an item without removing their hand from the bag. They cannot look inside the bag! Challenge them to identify the mystery object and its purpose. If they guess correctly, remove it from the bag. Continue playing until all the objects have been guessed.
3. Introduce today’s Big Idea: **When we listen to God, we learn our purpose.**

Watch this week’s video on the Kids and Youth playlist at youtube.com/themeetinghouse

HEAR

4. Let the kids know that in today’s God Story, the angel Gabriel visits Mary to share God’s purpose for her life. Mary listens to God and is blessed because she chooses to believe what God reveals to her. Encourage the kids to listen carefully to find out God’s purpose for Mary.
5. Look up and read about Mary in Luke 1:26-45.
6. Discuss:
 - In verse 30, what does the angel Gabriel tell Mary is going to happen? (she will give birth to a son—Jesus)
 - What’s a special message from God about something he’s going to do in the future called? (prophecy)
 - What does verse 32 tell us that Jesus will be called? (Son of the Most High God)
 - How long will Jesus reign (see verse 33)? (forever)
 - Why was Mary blessed according to Elizabeth (see verse 45)? (she believed the Lord would do what he said)
7. Re-read verse 38. Encourage the kids to imagine they are Mary. How would they respond to Gabriel’s message? If there’s time and the group is interested, take a few minutes to act out the scene between Gabriel and Mary. Invite the kids to take turns playing both roles.

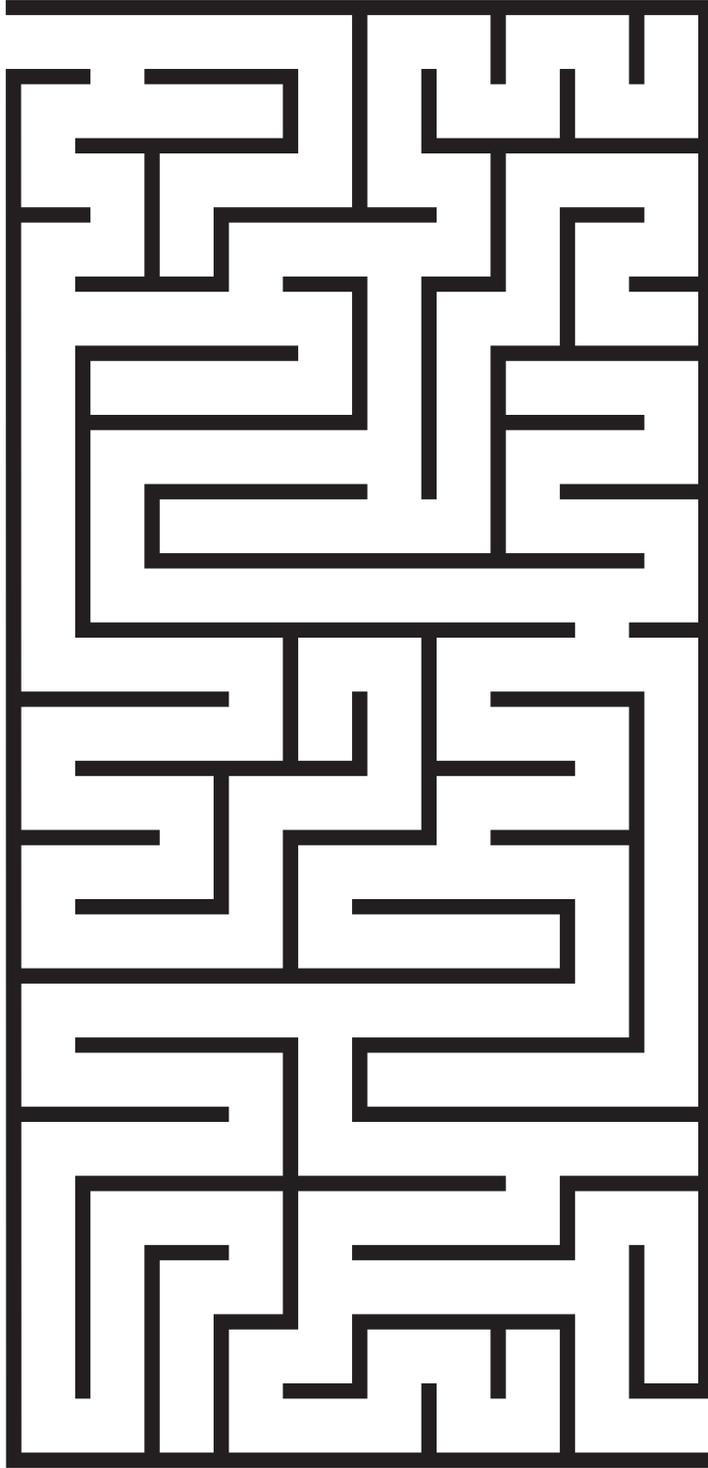
HUDDLE

8. Review the Key Verse for this series (I will listen to what God the Lord says. He promises peace to his faithful people. | Psalm 85:8a, NIRV).
9. Discuss:
 - What does God promise to people who listen to him and are faithful? (peace)
 - What do you think this peace might look like? Who will we have peace with?
 - God's purpose for every follower of Jesus is to be a peacemaker. What is a peacemaker? (someone who helps find peaceful solutions to problems)
 - How might someone be a peacemaker in the following situations?
 - Siblings are always fighting at home
 - A misunderstanding between friends has caused hurt feelings
 - Someone is being bullied on the playground.
 - Can you think of any other situations in which being a peacemaker might be important?
 - Have you ever been a peacemaker? What happened?
10. To wrap up, pray, "Dear God, thank you that when we listen to you, we discover our purpose. Thank you that you have an amazing purpose and plan for [name each member of your group]. Please help us all to be peacemakers in this world. In Jesus' name, amen."



Gabriel visits Mary

Help Gabriel find his way to visit Mary!



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Luke 1:26-45