



SUPPLIES AND VISUALS

Large Group

- Bible
- Wrapped gift
- Week 1 Key Concept Gift Tag
- Artist paintbrush



Small Groups

(All)

- Miniature candy canes (one per Small Group)
- Paper microphones (one per Small Group)
- Take-home sheets (one per child)

(K-1)

- Week 1 Star Ornaments with ribbon (one per child)
- Decorations (one set per Small Group)

(2-3)

- Blank sheets of paper (one per child)
- Markers (one set per Small Group)

(4-5)

- Blank sheets of paper (one per child)
- Markers (one set per Small Group)

Equipment

- *The Stars of Christmas* DVD, cued to Week 1
- Projector/screen (or DVD player/television)

IN ADVANCE

Large Group

- Find an over-sized gift box, place the paintbrush inside, and wrap the box in colorful Christmas paper. Print the Week 1 Key Concept Gift Tag onto cardstock, cut it out, and attach it to the box.
- If desired, the Teacher can prepare a Personal Application Story about a time when God gave him or her the power to do something extraordinary. (See page 4.)
- Cue the DVD to Week 1, screen 1-1 before kids begin to enter the room. Play fun Christmas or worship music as children gather.

Small Group

- Email or provide hard copies of the Small Group lesson to Small Group Leaders the week prior to this lesson.

Week 1

MARY ORDINARY

Key Concept

God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things!

Bible Summary

Luke 1:26-38

God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary she would have a baby and the child would be God's Son. Though Mary was afraid at first, she listened to the angel and allowed God to use her in an extraordinary way.

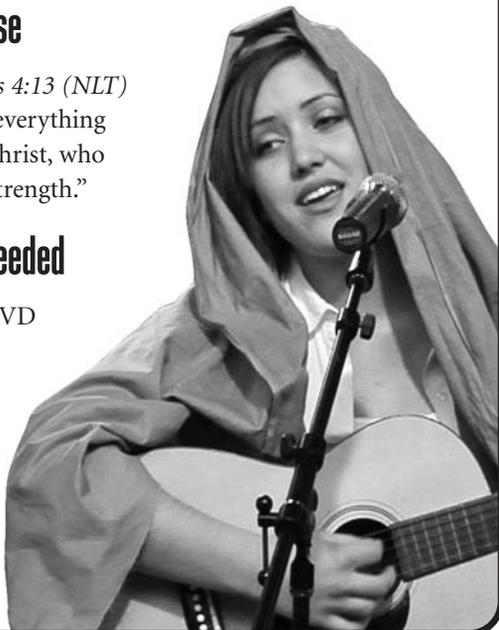
Bible Verse

Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

"I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."

People Needed

Teacher, DVD operator (optional)



- Print the microphone picture and make copies on cardstock, one per Small Group. Cut them out.
- Print the Week 1 Take-home Sheets and make one copy per child.
- Print the Week 1 Star Ornaments, copy them on cardstock, and cut them out, one per child in grades K-1. If desired, mount them on foam backing for greater durability. Glue a small loop of ribbon to the top of each star ornament. Gather supplies for children to use in decorating the stars (may include glitter glue, confetti pieces and glue sticks, and/or Christmas stickers).
Optional: provide safety scissors and glue sticks so kids can cut out their own ornaments and glue on the ribbon themselves.
- Place a candy cane, microphone, take-home sheets and the age-appropriate supplies in a bin for each Small Group Leader to pick up before the lesson begins.

WELCOME **AND** INTRODUCTION

Purpose: Call the children together into the teaching area while the theme song plays. Give the kids a warm and enthusiastic welcome!

Quick Tip:
This icon will cue you to click the "next" button on your DVD player.



1-2: THEME MUSIC

TEACHER: Welcome to our new great adventure. [Or, if desired, insert the name of your children's ministry.] It's the Christmas season! How many of you are excited that Christmas is right around the corner? [Kids respond.] We are starting a brand-new series today called *The Stars of Christmas*. Now you might think we named this series after that big, bright light in the sky on the very first Christmas—but we didn't. We actually named it after some of the people who starred in the actual Christmas story. Not only are we going to learn a lot about the Stars of Christmas, but we are going to learn that Jesus is the true Star of Christmas and following Him leads to an extraordinary life! Today we are going to discover how God made Mary's life extraordinary and how we can do anything through Christ Who gives us strength!

SMALL GROUP CONNECTION

Purpose: Connect with the kids in the Small Groups.

Activity: Pass a miniature candy cane around each Small Group circle; as each child holds the candy cane, he or she shares their name and most wanted Christmas gift



TEACHER: We want to get to know everyone here, so turn to your Small Group Leader for a five-minute Small Group Connection.



1-3: COUNTDOWN

icebreaker: ORDINARY VS. EXTRAORDINARY

Purpose: Refocus attention on the Teacher and whet kids' appetites for the Key Concept of the day.

TEACHER: How many of you want this Christmas to be extraordinary? [Kids respond.] In order to help you visualize what an extraordinary Christmas might look like, I have some ordinary and extraordinary pictures to show you. Check this out.

Quick Tip:
Click through the following screens:



1-5: ORDINARY ROBOT

1-6: EXTRAORDINARY ROBOT

1-7: ORDINARY SNOWMAN

1-8: EXTRAORDINARY SNOWMAN

1-9: ORDINARY CAR

1-10: EXTRAORDINARY CAR

1-11: ORDINARY STAR

1-12: EXTRAORDINARY STAR OF BETHLEHEM

TEACHER: That extraordinary star was kind of like God's big bow on top of an extraordinary gift He was giving to all of us.

INTRODUCTION OF KEY CONCEPT

Purpose: Introduce Key Concept.

TEACHER: [Pick up wrapped gift.] How many of you like receiving gifts? [Kids respond.] Well, I have a gift for all of us today! Inside this gift is an amazing truth that can make this Christmas extraordinary. Before we rip it open, let's read the gift tag.



1-13: KEY CONCEPT



TEACHER: It says, "God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things!" Who remembers what extraordinary means? [*Kids respond.*] Extraordinary means something out of the ordinary or more than ordinary: not normal or boring.

PERSONAL APPLICATION STORY

Purpose: Help the kids connect with the Key Concept. Consider sharing a 2-minute age-appropriate story about how God gave you the power to do something extraordinary when you were a child yourself.

SMALL GROUP SHARING

Purpose: Pass the paper microphone around each Small Group circle; as a child holds the microphone, he or she shares about something extraordinary they've done.

TEACHER: I'm sure you also have stories to share. So turn once again to your Small Group Leader for five minutes of Small Group sharing.



1-14: COUNTDOWN

WORSHIP SONG: JOY TO THE WORLD

Purpose: Get kids on their feet for high-energy worship.

TEACHER: Thanks for sharing those extraordinary stories! Everyone up on your feet. What would Christmas be without singing Christmas songs? Certainly not extraordinary. This favorite song is called "Joy to the World." Let's sing with extraordinary joy!



1-16: JOY TO THE WORLD

VIDEO: THE STARS OF CHRISTMAS, EPISODE 1

Purpose: Play the 10-minute teaching video to introduce the children to Mary, her amazing story, and how God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things for Him.



TEACHER: Great singing, everyone! We'll open this gift in just a moment. But first, I want you to sit back and watch Mary's extraordinary story. She is the first Star of Christmas I want you to meet.



1-18: THE STARS OF CHRISTMAS, EPISODE 1

OBJECT LESSON: PAINT BRUSH

Purpose: Use a visual object lesson to help kids understand that God is able to take anyone willing and help them do extraordinary things for Him.

TEACHER: Wow! Mary really was ordinary. But because she was humble and willing, God chose her to be the mother of Jesus. I would call "becoming the mother of God's only Son" pretty extraordinary, wouldn't you? [Kids respond.] So do you think God can use us today to do extraordinary things? [Kids respond.]

Let's see what's inside our gift today. [Open gift and pull out paintbrush. Pretend to be disappointed.] It's just a plain old paintbrush. Today we are talking about God doing extraordinary things, so I guess I was expecting something a little more extraordinary in our gift box. What are paintbrushes used for? [Kids respond.] Let me show you a few paintings that were made using plain old paintbrushes like this one.



1-20: MONA LISA, BY LEONARDO DA VINCI

1-21: STARRY NIGHT, BY VINCENT VAN GOGH

1-22: RED POINSETTIA, BY ERIN HERNER

Quick Tip: Click through the following images:

TEACHER: All those paintings are really amazing. Some of them are even considered to be masterpieces. Does anyone know what that means? [Kids respond.] A masterpiece is an extraordinary painting. What's interesting is that all those masterpieces were created with this—[hold up paintbrush]—an ordinary paintbrush. Did you know that paintbrushes are made out of hairs taken from pigs, camels, ponies, goats, or even squirrels? But in the hands of a talented artist, that ordinary brush can be used to create a masterpiece.



How many of you know Who created the universe and everything in it? [Kids respond.] God wants all of us to know that even though we may be ordinary, He can make something extraordinary out of our lives. For that to happen, we need to learn to be more like Mary—humble and willing. Did you catch what she said to the Angel when he told her she was going to be Jesus’ mother?

[Open Bible and read Luke 1:38 (NLT).] She said, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” Have you ever told God you would be willing to follow Him anywhere? If you do, be prepared for God to do something extraordinary with your life because . . .



1-23: KEY CONCEPT

TEACHER: . . . God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things!

WORSHIP SONG: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Purpose: Get kids on their feet for high-energy worship

TEACHER: Let’s get on our feet and, like Mary, tell God we will trust Him with our lives. This famous Christmas song is called “O Come, All Ye Faithful.”



1-24: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

BIBLE VERSE: PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Purpose: Introduce a verse that aligns with the Key Concept. Kids should walk away from the lesson knowing both the Key Concept and the supporting Bible Verse.

TEACHER: Philippians 4:13 is a powerful Bible verse. Let’s check it out together . . .





1-26: BIBLE VERSE

TEACHER: [Read with kids.] It says, "I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." That means when we put our trust in Jesus, He will give us the power to do extraordinary things for God. Is there anything too hard for Christ to do? [Kids respond.] Are there things too difficult for you to do on your own? [Kids respond.]

LARGE GROUP REVIEW: **RAPID REWIND** <<

Purpose: Engage kids in a fast-paced review contest.



1-27: RAPID REWIND TITLE SCREEN

TEACHER: It is now time to see who was paying attention! We call this "Rapid Rewind," because we go all the way back and quickly review everything we learned today. Are you ready? [Kids respond.] Take a deep breath and be sure you raise your hand if you know the answer. Here we go . . .

Quick Tip: Starting with 1-28, click through 1-37 to show alternating questions and answers.



1-28: 1. WHAT WAS TODAY'S KEY CONCEPT WRITTEN ON THE GIFT TAG?

- A. God uses extraordinary people to do extraordinary things!
- B. God will help me do anything I can dream up!
- C. God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things!
- D. If God wants anything done, then He better do it Himself



1-29: **C. GOD USES ORDINARY PEOPLE TO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS!**



1-30: 2. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF OUR AWARD SHOW HOST?

- A. Regis Lee
- B. Cody Bankshot
- C. Cotton Candyman
- D. Colton Storm



1-31: **D. COLTON STORM**





1-32: 3. *WHAT TOWN DID MARY COME FROM?*

- A. Nazareth
- B. Bethlehem
- C. Galilee
- D. Chicago



1-33: **A. NAZARETH**



1-34: 4. *WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE ANGEL WHO VISITED MARY?*

- A. Los Angeles Angel of Anaheim
- B. Rodney Radiant
- C. Gabriel
- D. Michael



1-35: **C. GABRIEL**



1-36: 5. *WHAT ARE PAINTBRUSHES NOT MADE OUT OF?*

- A. Camel hair
- B. Bird hair
- C. Pig hair
- D. Goat hair



1-37: **B. BIRD HAIR**



1-38: *CLICK AHEAD TO SCREEN 1-38 BEFORE MOVING AHEAD TO THE CLOSING PRAYER*

CLOSING PRAYER

Purpose: Conclude the lesson with a sincere prayer for your children.

TEACHER: Maybe you thought Christmas was just about getting lots of presents. The best presents you'll receive this Christmas won't be under your tree. They'll be from God Himself! When you open your heart to God, your Christmas, and your life will be extraordinary. Let's pray.

Dear God, we all admit that alone we are pretty ordinary. Help us be like Mary and humbly be willing to trust and follow You. We want our lives to be extraordinary, and we want this Christmas to be extraordinary, too. That will only be possible if we look to You for direction and strength. Amen.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Purpose: Review the lesson with questions about Mary and the day's Bible verse. K/1 kids decorate a star ornament, 2/3 kids draw individual pictures of themselves doing something extraordinary, and 4/5 kids draw comic strips of themselves doing extraordinary things with God's help.

TEACHER: Thanks for coming today! I look forward to seeing everyone next week for another episode of "The Stars of Christmas." Now turn to your Small Group Leaders one last time, because they have some fun activities to help you understand what we learned today.



1-39: *THEME MUSIC*

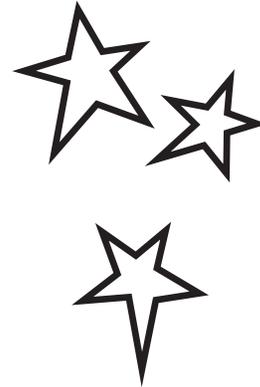




If you've reviewed the detailed lesson and are comfortable with what you will say and do, simply take this Quick Script with you as a reminder for each segment.

LARGE GROUP
Week 1 MARY ORDINARY

QUICK SCRIPT



• **Welcome and Introduction**

Welcome the kids as the theme song plays.

• **Small Group Connection**

Groups will pass around a miniature candy cane as kids share their names and most wanted Christmas gift.

• **Icebreaker:**
Ordinary vs. Extraordinary

Share video images of ordinary versus extraordinary things.

• **Introduction of Key Concept**

Introduce the Key Concept on the gift tag.

• **Personal Application Story**

Share an age-appropriate 2-minute story about how God gave you the power to do something extraordinary when you were a child.

• **Small Group Sharing**

Groups pass around a paper microphone as kids share about something extraordinary they've done.

• **Worship Song:**

Joy to the World

• **Teaching Video:**

The Stars of Christmas, Episode 1. Play the 10-minute teaching video.

• **Object Lesson: Paint Brush**

Use a paintbrush to remind kids that God can use something very ordinary for an extraordinary purpose, just as great artists use a small paintbrush to create a masterpiece.

• **Worship Song:**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

• **Bible Verse: Philippians 4:13**

Introduce the Bible verse for the day.

• **Large Group Review:**
Rapid Rewind

Guide kids through the review questions on the video.

• **Closing Prayer**

Conclude the lesson with a sincere prayer for your children.

• **Small Group Activity**

Small Groups review the day's lesson through an activity. K/1 kids decorate a star ornament, 2/3 kids draw individual pictures of themselves doing something extraordinary, and 4/5 kids draw comic strips of themselves doing extraordinary things with God's help.