

10

God's Choice

Worship
We praise God for His greatest gift.

POWER TEXT
"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).

KEY REFERENCES
- Luke 1:26-56
- *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 10, p. 98; chap. 15, p. 145
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 13-17
- student story on page 112 of this guide.

OUR BELIEFS
- No. 5, The Holy Spirit
- No. 4, The Son
- No. 11, Growing in Christ

OBJECTIVES
The students will:
- **Know** that God has chosen them just as He chose Mary.
- **Feel** gratitude and humility for being chosen as a child of God.
- **Respond** by choosing to worship God every day.

POWERPOINT

We worship God because He has chosen us as His own.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that she has been chosen to be the mother of the Messiah. Mary accepts this responsibility and worships the Lord. Just as God chose Mary to carry Jesus in her womb, He chooses us to carry the good news of His love to the world.

This is a lesson about worship.
Mary praised God and submitted to His will for her life. In the same way that Mary chose to give her life in worship to the Saviour, so we too can choose to give our lives in worship every day.

Teacher Enrichment
"Mary was no doubt chosen primarily because at the appointed time . . . her character more closely reflected the divine ideals of motherhood than that of any other daughter of David. She was one of that select minority who were 'waiting for the consolation of Israel.' . . . It was this hope that purified her life . . . and qualified her for her sacred role. . . . Every mother in Israel today may cooperate with Heaven as Mary did . . . , and may, in a sense, make of her children sons and daughters of God" (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 281).

Why has God chosen me? How will I respond to His calling? How am I waiting for Jesus to come? In what ways does my life reflect my connection with God?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice. 

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. And the Winner Is . . .*	Bibles, prewritten slips of paper
		B. Choosing the Good News!	Bibles, art supplies, writing supplies
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 107. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, small gift box, solid-color wrapping paper, the words "Gift of Gratitude," world map, pushpins
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, three student mimes
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Sharing Joy*	stickers
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ prewritten slips of paper

And the Winner Is . . .

Divide the students into two or three groups. Distribute slips of paper with the names of Bible characters written on them to each group. Ask each group to choose one person as "A Praiseworthy Person." Explain that "praiseworthy" here means one having strong spiritual values, good character, intelligence, etc. A representative of each group should then tell who they have chosen and why.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why did you choose** [name of chosen person]**? Would you like to be chosen on this basis? Why or why not? What standards does God use to choose His messengers?** (He looks for people who are willing to do whatever He asks and by faith believe that the unbelievable is possible.) Say: **Our power text reminds us that God personally chooses us. Let's read 1 Peter 2:9 together.** (Give the students time to find and read the power text aloud with you.)

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:19).

Say: **Our power point this week is:**

We worship God because He has chosen us as His own.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ writing supplies

Choosing the Good News!

Divide students in groups of three or four. Ask: **What is the best news you've ever gotten? How did the news come to you?** (Encourage responses and discussion.) Say: **You are going to have a chance to record your good news in one of the means we have provided today.** Ask them whether they would like to create something with art supplies or in writing and divide them into groups accordingly at your discretion. Students will divide the responsibilities and take turns at creating a display or presentation of their good news.

Give a time limit and monitor groups to ensure their finishing on time. Have each group display their presentations to the rest of the class.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you share your news? Why did you choose to share your good news the way you did?** (I was comfortable/familiar with the medium; it was the easiest, quickest, most interesting way.) **If you could choose anyone to spread your good news for you, who would you pick and why? How do you think that person would respond? How is the way you chose your person like or unlike how God chooses us?** Say: **Let's read together our power text, 1 Peter 2:9** (Allow time for students to find and read aloud with you.)

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:19).

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Accommodations for students with special needs:
Allow those students with special needs who experience difficulty with this activity to contribute to the group project according to their strengths and skills.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

Begin sharing a variety of Christmas music throughout the month.

Mission

YOU NEED:

- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:

- ☐ small gift box with solid-color wrapping paper and the words: Gift of Gratitude

Use the gift box for the offering all month. Ask: **What do you want to do when you are grateful to someone?** (say thank you; give a gift) Say: **Today we can worship God by bringing our offerings in thankfulness to Him.**

Prayer

Gather the students in a circle. Ask: **As you think about God choosing you for His own, how does it make you feel? You can share those feelings in our one-word "popcorn" prayer. After I say, "Dear Lord, we want to worship You by telling You how we feel today," you can each say one word as you think of it, such as "happy," "blessed," etc.** Say the closing prayer.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **We each have been chosen by God and we all have an important part in His plan. Today we'll learn how God chose a girl named Mary to be a special part of His plan.**

YOU NEED:

- □ Bibles
- □ three student mimes

Experiencing the Story

Ask three of your livelier students to pantomime the conversation between Mary and the angel Gabriel, and Mary and Elizabeth, using gestures and facial expressions as other student volunteers read the story from Luke 1:26-56 aloud. Have all students follow along in their Bibles.

Debriefing

Say: **The angel Gabriel told Mary that she was highly favored by the Lord, and then he said not to be afraid.** Ask: **What do you usually think when someone starts off by saying something nice, then says something like "Don't be afraid" or "Don't worry"?** (I get worried because they may be trying to soften the blow that comes next.) **How did he know she was afraid? What do you think she was afraid of?** (the angel himself and what he might say next; that she might be losing her mind) **After listening to Gabriel, what do you think would have been hardest for Mary to understand?** (being favored by God; getting pregnant as a virgin; who her child was going to be; how to explain this to others, especially Joseph and her family) **What does Mary's answer tell you about her?** (See Luke 1:38. She was humble, willing, and had faith.) **How do you think you would have responded if you had been Mary?**

Say: **Look carefully at Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55.** Ask: **For what does Mary praise God in this song and why?** (For noticing her, a young girl in a society in which women were treated like possessions; for His kindness toward a poor person; because poor people were looked down upon; because she knew what the Messiah was supposed to do.) **If you had to sing a song of praise to God for choosing you, what would you sing?**

Say: **As our power text says, God has chosen each of us for His own and promises to use us to accomplish very special things.**

We worship God because He has chosen us as His own.

3 APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Discuss what was the same and what was different about the way the angel Gabriel approached Mary, Joseph, and Zechariah. Have the students read Matthew 1:18-24 and Luke 1:26-38. Ask: **How are Joseph's and Mary's reactions the same? How are they different?** Now have them read Luke 1:13-17. Ask: **How do Gabriel's words to Mary compare with his words to Zechariah? What is the same about all three?** (They were chosen by God.) **Our power text tells us that we were chosen too. Let's repeat it:**

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:19).

Ask: **How do we respond?**

We worship God because He has chosen us as His own.

Scenario

Say: **The headmaster calls for you to come and see him. *Oh, no! What did I do?* you think as you drag yourself to his office. Your palms get sweatier as you approach. You relax a little when everyone in the office smiles at you. After waiting about five minutes, the headmaster's secretary ushers you in. As she closes the door, she whispers, "Congratulations." Before you can think what she means, the headmaster grabs your hand and shakes it. He introduces you to a woman who tells you that you have been chosen to represent your school by being a guest of honor at a special governor's banquet.**

Debriefing

Ask: **What is your first reaction? How do you think it feels to be chosen for something so special? How is this like being chosen by God for His own? How is it different? Who will you tell about it?**

Say: **God has made us for Himself. Because we belong to God, wherever we go and whatever we do we represent Him. He promises never to leave us or to forsake us. For that we can give Him thanks and praise. Remember:**

We worship God because He has chosen us as His own.

4 SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ stickers

Sharing Joy

Arrange ahead of time for the students to go to a lower-division class. They should each choose one child to play with (color a picture, tell a story, sing a song). Before leaving, the students should give each child a sticker. Return to the classroom.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did the little boys and girls react when you chose to spend time with them? How do we respond to God who has chosen us as His own?** (with gratitude, praise, and worship) **Remember:**

We worship God because He has chosen us as His own.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Ask God to touch each of your students this week with a special sense of their being chosen by Him.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **An angel speaks to Joseph. We worship God when we trust His Word.**

Notes

Student lesson

God's Choice

Think of a time you were chosen for something special. How did you feel? Today in our lesson God sends an angel to tell Mary that He has chosen her above all others to be the mother of His Son. Think of how Mary must have felt when the angel appeared to her and how she responded to the angel's message.

Mary was working inside, enjoying the coolness. It was so hot outside in the middle of the day. As she worked she thought about Joseph. He was so loving and kind, just the kind of husband she had always dreamed of. She remembered when they announced their engagement. Everyone was so pleased. Now there was so much to do getting ready for the wedding.

Suddenly she became aware of someone in the room. A beautiful angel was there with her, walking toward her. Mary was afraid. She began to tremble. Her mouth was dry. She was not able to say a word. She just looked in speechless amazement.

Coming over to her, the angel said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary sank to her knees. She was in shock. What did this all mean? What could an angel have to tell a young girl like her?

The angel continued, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," asked Mary in astonishment, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

Then the angel told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was going to have a baby, even though she was old. Everyone said she would never have any children. Yet, according to the words of the angel, her baby was going to be born in three months, for nothing is impossible with God.

Mary bowed her head. Stunned, but without hesitation she said to the angel, "I am the Lord's servant. . . . May your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1:28-38).

After the angel left, Mary prayed quietly for a long time. Then she stood up slowly and looked around at the simple room she knew so well. It was just the way it had been before the angel arrived. It was also very different. She would never see it the same way again. *What had just happened? Had an angel really been here?* she wondered.

She would have to talk to someone about this or it would be hard to believe it herself. But who? Who would believe her?

Mary thought over what the angel had said. He had talked about her cousin Elizabeth. She too was going to have a special child. She would understand what Mary needed so much to talk about. Mary flew around the house making arrangements to be gone for a while. She packed a small bundle to carry with her on her journey into the hill country.

Finally she arrived at Elizabeth and Zechariah's home. As she entered and greeted her cousin, she knew she had come to the right place. Elizabeth already knew! She stood up and greeted Mary with a blessing and the announcement that the child Mary was going to have was blessed. "But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy," Elizabeth told Mary with excitement.

Mary set down her bundle and gave her cousin a big hug. They were going to have plenty to talk about. God had chosen them both for awesome responsibilities.

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" Elizabeth said. (Luke 1:39-45)

"I am so filled with praise to God, I could sing to Him right now!" Mary exclaimed.

"Go ahead," Elizabeth replied. "We have plenty to sing about as we worship Him."

REFERENCES

- Luke 1:26-56
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 10, p. 98; chap. 15, p. 145
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 13-17
- Our Beliefs, nos. 5, 4, 11

POWER TEXT

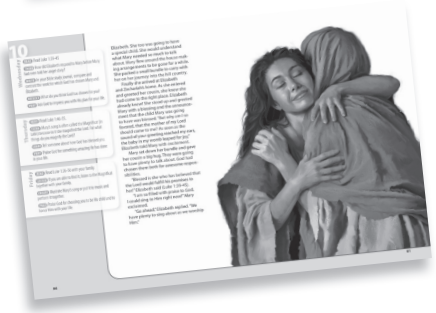
"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).

POWER POINT

We worship God because He has chosen us as His own.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 75.

Sunday

READ Read 1 Peter 2:9 and this week's story, "God's Choice."

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, 1 Peter 2:9.

PRAY Thank God that He has chosen you.

Monday

READ Read Luke 1:26–34.

WRITE Think of the angel's news to Mary. In your Bible study journal, thank God for choosing you.

PRAY Ask God to help you accept His calling so that you can fulfill the work for which He has chosen you.

Tuesday

READ Read Luke 1:35–38.

THINK Why did the angel mention Elizabeth, saying, "with God nothing will be impossible" (verse 37, NKJV)?

SHARE Tell someone about a time you discovered that with God nothing is impossible.

PRAY Ask God to do the impossible in your life.

Wednesday

READ Read Luke 1:39–45.

THINK How did Elizabeth respond to Mary before Mary had even told her angel story?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, compare and contrast the work for which God has chosen Mary and Elizabeth.

REFLECT What do you think God has chosen for you?

PRAY Ask God to impress you with His plan for your life.

Thursday

READ Read Luke 1:46–55.

THINK Mary's song is often called the Magnificat (in Latin) because in it she magnified the Lord. For what things do you magnify the Lord?

SHARE Tell someone about how God has blessed you.

PRAY Praise God for something amazing He has done in your life.

Friday

READ Read Luke 1:26-56 with your family.

LISTEN If you are able to find it, listen to the Magnificat together with your family.

CREATE Illustrate Mary's song or put it to music and perform it together.

PRAY Praise God for choosing you to be His child and to honor Him with your life.