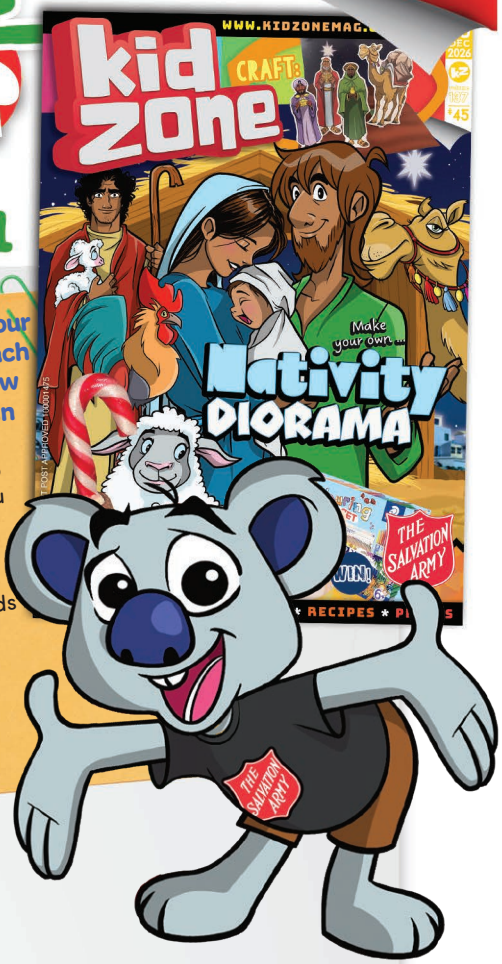
kid zone LEADERS' guide

05 DEC 2026

Advent series #1



THIS Week...

This week we're talking about the angel Gabriel visiting Mary.

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSES: **Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-24**

BUZZ WORDS: **Nativity, play, angel**

BEFORE today's lesson:

- Make sure you have all the materials you need for the 'Welcome Zone' and 'Fun Zone' activities.
- Gather together all the required ingredients for 'Grub Zone'.
- Have enough *Kidzone* magazines for every child!
- Print off the 'Beyond the Zone' card.

When preparing your program, consider each of the 'zones' and how they will best work in your context.
You may like to mix up the order in which you do the 'zones'. You will, however, need to remember the 'Welcome Zone' needs to start the session, the 'Zone In' section needs to follow the 'God Zone', and the 'Beyond the Zone' happens at home.

THE CHILDREN WILL NEED THEIR NATIVITY DIORAMA'S FOR THE NEXT 3 WEEKS, COLLECT THE DIORAMAS AFTER THE SESSION AND STORE THEM FOR NEXT WEEK.



THIS WEEK'S magazine contains an awesome diorama with three scenes that tell the story of Christmas over the next three weeks.
This week, our craft is creating the stand for our scenes and telling the story of the angel Gabriel. Week 2 (12 December) we will make the shepherds scene as our craft activity and in Week 3, we will make the Nativity scene and the three wise men travelling to worship the new king.
If possible, make a playset and have it set up for the children to see how it works.



(10 mins)

MAKE Cheffy's cute brownie ornaments on page 15.
You can simplify the recipe by pre-making the brownie balls and using icing instead of melted chocolate in steps 4 and 5. Make a fairly runny icing mixture in a bowl deep enough for the brownie balls to be dipped into. Dip the brownie balls into the mixture, let the excess drip off and sprinkle with the Christmas sprinkles immediately.



(10 mins)

LOOK at the diorama pages in *Kidzone* on pages 6 to 11.
If possible, have one assembled to show the children how it will work.

GIVE the children their cardboard and, with you demonstrating each step, assemble the stand from the directions on page 4, steps 1-3.

AT THE END OF THE SESSION, COLLECT THE CHILDREN'S STANDS AND DIORAMA SHEETS.

Have named ziplock or paper bags to store each child's stand and diorama scenes and characters to use next week. Keep the instruction sheet and the Nativity playset timeline to refer to over the next two weeks.



GODZONEkz

(5-7 mins)

COLOUR in the colouring-in sheet on page 16 if the children have any spare time.

LOOK at the timeline on page 5 and note that we will be hearing about the first part of the Christmas story in the red rectangle.

TELL the story of the angel Gabriel visiting Mary to tell that she will have Jesus, God's son (Luke 1:26-38).

Read the story from a children's picture Bible or show a video of the story. There are many videos on YouTube to suit all ages, such as: ***youtube.com/watch?v=1jrvGBRvolk&t=87s***



ZONEINkz

(5 mins)

CHAT about how Mary might have felt when the angel visited her.

TALK about how God could have chosen anyone to give birth to his son, but he chose Mary.

She was an ordinary young woman who wasn't important, but she loved God and wanted to live her life for him. Talk about how everyone is important to God.

TALK about how God chooses us to do his important work, too.

GIVE OUT the 'Beyond the Zone' cards and read through the activities.

GET READY FOR NEXT WEEK ...

To make the recipes and crafts next week you will need the following:



CHEFFY'S CANDY CANE HEARTS

- Mini candy canes
- Milk chocolate
- Christmas sprinkles.
- You will also need access to an oven or take air fryer into class.

OLIVER'S DIORAMA

Give each child their stand and diorama scenes from last week to work on. You will also need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Blu Tack or paper clips.





Sign-up to receive the Kidzone Leaders' Guide upload alert each week – amazing!

Visit our website for more info (and heaps of fun), kidzonemag.com.au/kidzone-leaders-guide



We'd love to see some photos of your kids' church members enjoying the activities to include in the *Kidzone* magazine!

Email a picture of your group to kidzone@salvationarmy.org.au

***Please get permission from parents before sending photos and include a copy of signed parental consent for *Kidzone* to print image.**



BEYOND the ZONE kz

Have a go at some of these:

Make Cheffy's cool brownie ornaments to share with friends and fam.

Pray (talk) to God, thanking him for sending the angel Gabriel to give Mary the amazing news that he had chosen her to do the most important thing ever – to have Jesus.

Colour in the colouring comp on **page 16** and send it in to *Kidzone*.



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