

Sunday School Lesson, July 26, 2026
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Lesson—Living With What You Didn't Ask For¹
Text: Luke 2:15-19; John 2:1-5; 19:25-27

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Examine Mary's role as Jesus' mother as an expression of faithful witness.
2. Nurture "inner hospitality" as an expression of welcome to Jesus.
3. Welcoming others as an expression of faithful witness to Christ.

Why This Lesson Matters: We are faced with many choices throughout our lives, but it is impossible to commit to everything. We see Mary's commitment to Jesus at significant moments throughout his life—from the announcement of his birth His first miracle, to His crucifixion.

Key Verse: *"But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:19, KJV).*

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. A Faithful Witness Embraces the Unexpected (Luke 2:15-19)
3. A Faithful Witness Trusts God's Timing (John 2:1-5)
4. A Faithful Witness Endures the Unthinkable (John 19:25-27)

III. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson

Jesus: God's only son and the sacrificial lamb who died, was buried, and was resurrected to restore humanity to a right relationship with the Father.

John: A disciple of Jesus with whom Jesus trusted the care of his mother.

Joseph: Jewish man of Nazareth who was the husband of Mary and the earthly father of Jesus.

Mary: the mother of Jesus

Shepherds: people who tend sheep.

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnbc.com

IV. Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)

Were gone away

Heart

Manger

Wondered

Made known abroad

Pondered

V. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

The gospels of Luke and John highlight moments when Mary faithfully witnesses significant periods in the life of her son, Jesus. These books were written by the gentile physician Luke and by John, one of Jesus' closest disciples, and served different but essential purposes.

Luke aimed to provide an organized, researched, and chronological account of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection to strengthen faith in the gospel message. John provides more of the reasons and the importance of why Jesus came to earth, the intimate relationship between Jesus and his father, and Jesus' feelings about the job he had come to do. John is the only gospel that records the first miracle of Jesus, the raising of Lazarus from the dead, his healing of a man born blind, and the only one to mention Nicodemus.

The immediate context of Luke chapter 2 follows the announcement of Jesus' birth, the shepherd's response of faith, their testimony about what they saw and heard, and Mary's quiet, reflective internalization of these events. John begins chapter 2 with the first of his selected signs, the miracle at Cana, which reveals his glory, confirms his identity to his followers, and Mary's instructions to the servant affirming her continuing faith in his authority. The broader context of John chapter 19 encompasses Jesus' arrest, trial before Pilate, and crucifixion.

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?)

Are there things or people in your life that you did not ask God for? Even so, you know that they or it are not going anywhere, and it is your life to simply deal with the hand you have been given. We see today in Mary's life that although she did not ask for a son, much less the Son of God, she chose to honor God by taking care of that which / Who God put in her life. That very thing or person could possibly turn out to be the greatest blessing you'll ever receive.

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*