

GABRIEL'S QUEST

The Bigger Picture

Lesson Link: Mary said yes to God's plan. We are like Mary when we say yes to God, no matter the cost.

The kids in Gabriel's class were faced with a mystery.

Early one morning, some of the students found a handwritten note slipped in their cubby holes. The note said, "Because you said yes."

The kids were abuzz about what it meant. They didn't know what they had said yes to. They also didn't know why some of the students hadn't received a note.

When they asked Sister Mary, she just smiled and said, "You'll see."

As the day went on, Sister Mary reminded each student about art projects she had asked them to do during recess back in the second week of school. Gabriel remembered that it wasn't really an assignment. Sister Mary had simply asked the kids, "Will you do this for me?"

Some of the students said no. They didn't want to give up their recess time. Sister Mary only said, "Okay." Many of the kids volunteered to help with the projects, even though the tasks seemed weird.

Gabriel remembered how Sister Mary had asked Aimee to draw pairs of human eyes. She asked Willy to color the eyes. Craig was asked to draw shapes that looked like black drumsticks. Laney was asked to sort out a large box of buttons. Jay was asked to cut small curves out of white paper. Gabriel had spent almost an hour cutting up small strips of yellow paper. Sister Mary didn't tell them why she needed all those different things. She put them all into a box and carried them away.

The students who had said no to the tasks teased the ones who'd said yes.



Gabriel now realized that the kids who got the notes in the morning were the same ones who had said yes to the weird art project.

The last hour of the school day arrived. Sister Mary announced that it was time to explain the mystery.

The classroom door opened. Father Cliff walked in. Deacon Chuck and Mr. Norm followed him. They were carrying a brown tube that must have been ten feet long.

"Your art projects were part of a bigger project," Father Cliff explained. "Now it is time for you to see what you've done."

Mr. Norm and Deacon Cliff lifted the tube high. Father Cliff attached each end to some hooks at the top of the blackboard. Then, with a “ta-da!” Father Cliff waved his hand. The two men slowly unrolled the tube.

The kids gasped.

It was a giant picture of a Nativity scene made up of small pieces. Mary and Joseph knelt next to the baby Jesus in a manger. They were surrounded by sheep and cows and an ox. Shepherds knelt near the Holy Family.

“This is called a mosaic,” Father Cliff said. “All the pieces you see were created by all the students at St. Clare’s who said yes.”

Gabriel suddenly realized that the straw in the manger was really the small strips of yellow paper he had cut up. Aimee and Willy saw the eyes they had worked on in the faces of Joseph and Mary. Jay saw that the white curves were part of the sheep’s wool. The eyes of the sheep were made of brown buttons. All the students who had said yes to Sister Mary saw their work in the picture.

“It’s beautiful!” Sister Mary said, clasping her hands.

Father Cliff said to the class, “You said yes to Sister Mary, even though you didn’t understand what you were saying yes to. God

often asks us to say yes, though we don’t know what He is doing or why. Then, by saying yes, we become part of God’s plan for the world.”

He pointed to Mary in the picture. She was leaning over the baby Jesus in the manger. “Our Blessed Mother was a young girl who said yes to God. Because she said yes, Jesus came into the world to save us. The whole world was changed forever.”

Sister Mary invited the class to look closely at the mosaic as they left the school. Gabriel stayed back for a long time. He was proud of his straw. He was glad he said yes.

Questions:

1. **Why did some students say no to Sister Mary’s request?** (Answers may include they didn’t want to and they wanted to play instead.)
2. **What would have happened if Gabriel said no to Sister Mary’s request?** (Answers may include there wouldn’t have been any straw for baby Jesus and Gabriel wouldn’t have been part of the plan.)
3. **In what ways can you say yes to God?** (Answers may include loving others, praying and listening to God, and trying to be holy and a saint.)