



Gabriel Visits Zechariah

Luke 1:5-25

God Statement: Jesus is God's Gift

KEY VERSE: "A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God."
(Isaiah 9:6a, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is God's Gift

In today's lesson, we are going to continue learning about how Jesus is God's Gift.

SAY:

Raise your hands if you like gifts. Turn to the person next to you and tell them about the best gift you have ever gotten. Ready? Go. *Have a few kids share with the whole class about the best gift they've received after a minute or two.* Those all sound like great gifts. Gifts are a really special way for us to show others love and compassion. Did you know that the greatest gift of all came at Christmas? Who's birthday do we always

celebrate on Christmas? That's right, Jesus! Jesus is God's greatest gift to each of us. Let's say that together – Jesus is God's Gift.

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Find the Gift!

Supplies: gift wrapped box, baby doll

Say: *Wow! That game was so much fun. I wonder what is in our gift! Look! A baby. Has anyone ever received a baby as a gift? I wonder what stories we know about where someone has gotten a baby as a gift from God. Do you know any?*

Directions: Make sure baby doll is in the shoe box. Place lid on top. Have children close their eyes and hide the gift somewhere in the room (you can have another child hide the box if you would like to). Have children try and find the gift. Play this game a few times, then sit down and open the gift.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the Key Verse slides.****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**“A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God.”
(Isaiah 9:6a, NIRV)**

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship. ****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day. ****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Gabriel Visits Zechariah

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: paper ornaments, paper Christmas trees, scotch tape

Prepare ahead: Pin paper Christmas trees to wall in Large Group space.

Zechariah had a hard time believing what the angel said. He didn't believe he would really have a son. Sometimes having faith is difficult. When God did what He said He would do – and baby John was born, Zechariah was so happy. God gave him a special gift, the gift of a baby boy. This was a special baby (well, all babies are special, but John had a special job to do when he got older). Zechariah praised and worshiped God.

How can we praise and worship God?

I am sure you can all think of something to thank God for, something to praise Him for.

Take a moment to think about that question – How can we praise and worship God? Then, when you're ready, you can write or draw a picture on a paper ornament and put it on the paper Christmas tree as worship to God.

As soft worship music plays in the background, allow kids to spend a few minutes to respond quietly by themselves. Then, gather everyone back together to close large group in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

******After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the "Compassion International" slide.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Friends, whenever you see a Christmas tree, may you remember to praise and worship God for all He has done.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they’ve just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Briefly retell the Bible story (Luke 1:5-25).**

Who appeared to Zechariah? (An angel, Gabriel).

2. **What did the angel Gabriel tell Zechariah?** (He and his wife, Elizabeth, would have a baby)
3. **What would their baby’s name be?** (John)

4. **God sometimes does things in a strange way, but we can trust that He's always right. How do you think Zechariah felt after hearing the good news? How would you react to an angel telling you something?**

Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **Read Luke 1:11-17.**

Who appeared to Zechariah? What news did he bring Zechariah?

2. **Read Luke 1:19-20.**

What happened to Zechariah? (He was made silent) Why do you think God chose to do this?

3. **What would be their baby's name be? (John) Do you know who John is in the New Testament? (John the Baptist)**
4. **God sometimes does things in a strange way, but we can trust that He's always right. How do you think Zechariah felt after hearing the good news? How would you react to an angel telling you something?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

Angel Gabriel, Zechariah, & Elizabeth Maze Page

Supplies: 1 activity page per child, markers/crayons

Say: *Wow! What an amazing story we heard today, about Zechariah and the news Gabriel gave him! Even though Zechariah has to be silent, he was told his wife Elizabeth*

would have a baby! What a beautiful gift. Let's do this maze to remind us of our story today.

Directions: Pass out maze page and pencils or crayons for kids to do the activity. This can also be sent home if there is not enough time in class to complete.

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.

THE STORY OF ELIZABETH

Guide the angel Gabriel to Zechariah.

