



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."
(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. When do you get gifts? *Pause for response.* We get gifts on our birthdays, sometimes we get gifts for no reason at all, sometimes we get them on special holidays like Easter or Christmas! Do you know what holiday is coming up soon? Christmas, that's right. Did you know that the greatest gift of all came at

Christmas? Who's birthday do we always celebrate at Christmas? 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.

WORSHIP & CHLOE'S RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

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!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

CHLOE'S RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Chloe's Rules in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Chloe's Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides.****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host**MAIL TIME!**

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says “hot” or “cold” to give them clues if they’re getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

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.”
(Isaiah 9:6a, NIRV)**

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: Gift

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

Wow, this is a very fun What’s It today. What do you think this **gift** has to do with our story today? I really love gifts. They are so fun to open! But this gift looks really special. Maybe we should find out what this gift is about in our Big God Story today. Do you know what time it is? It’s time for us to dive into God’s Word together!

****** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to 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 Compassion & Offering slides.****

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

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements 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. Retell the Bible story (Luke 1:5-25) briefly.**

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.

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.

Zechariah & Elizabeth Coloring Page

Supplies: 1 coloring 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 color this page 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.

