



Lesson
14

1st-4th

GABRIEL VISITS ZECHARIAH (JOHN THE BAPTIST)

December 7 & 8

**GOD HAS
A PLAN**



LESSON GOAL:

Zechariah was a priest in God's holy temple. He and his wife, Elizabeth, were very old and had no children. One day Zechariah was visited by an angel of God who told him he would have a son, John, who would prepare the way for Jesus. God's plan was hard for Zechariah and Elizabeth to believe because it seemed impossible, but God called them to trust in His plan for their lives and for the coming savior, Jesus.

The goal of this lesson is for kids to understand that God has a plan for our lives just like He had a plan for Zechariah, Elizabeth and ultimately Jesus.

Luke 1:5-23

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

All Church Worship Night
December 11 at Rockrimmon

Gift of Love
December 14 at RR & WH

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:
Antarctic Adventure



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 9:6 (NIRV)

shortened version for younger kids is in bold

MISSION FOCUS:

Gift of Love

The Gift of Love Celebration is hosted by our Woodmen ACTs ministry and serves over 350 families in our community. Parents experience the joy of giving as they shop for new gifts at a low cost to gift to their family at Christmas.

*This is the **FINAL WEEKEND** of collecting items for our Gift of Love Celebration. Please bring items to the Woodmen Kids Greeter Desk (or the Feeding Families bins).*

Families can also sign up to serve:
woodmenvalley.org/giftoflove



10 min

after the start
of service

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! Do you have any offering to put in our offering bin? *(Direct child to offering station)*

When you're done, grab today's **Lesson Card**. Look up the Bible passage in your own Bible or a classroom Bible and leave your card there as a bookmark. Then, you can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

20
min

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



DISCUSS: God Has a Plan!

Help kids connect relationally by asking them about their week, then discuss the lesson topic for the day and read the Bible passage together.

SAY:

Let's take turns sharing 3 words about our week. I'll go first!
Share your 3 words then invite the next child to share.

SAY:

Today, we are learning about how **God Has a Plan**. This story comes from the Bible in **Luke 1:5-17**. Can you open your Bible to the passage with me so we can read it together?

DO:

Read the Bible passage aloud or pick a child to read it aloud.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by thinking through the Big 3 questions and how the lesson relates to them, personally.



SAY:

Let's answer **THE BIG 3** questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?


Zechariah

2. What was the problem?

Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were very old and didn't have any children

3. What did God do?

God sent an angel to tell Zechariah that he would have a son named John who would prepare the way for Jesus.



Encourage kids to think about why this matters and how they can apply it to their own life as they listen to the story!



MAKE: Handprint Angel

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: Angel page, stamp pads, markers, God Statement Sticker



SAY:

God has a plan! Today we are learning about an angel that visited Zechariah! Let's make a special craft to remind us of this truth about God.



DO:

Pass out one angel craft page to each child. Help children use the ink pads to make hand prints on the outside of the angel for wings. Then have them place the God statement sticker on their craft. Allow kids to color their angel if they would like to.



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.



Craft Example



God has a plan!
Luke 1:5-25

25
min

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God by participating in Worship and hearing an engaging Bible story.



EXPECTATIONS

As kids transition to Large Group time, play the expectations video.



HOST MOMENT

After the Large Group expectations video is finished, the Host should welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.



SAY:

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Let's take a few minutes to look at our Missions project for the day and our Key Verse.

MISSION FOCUS

Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.

KEY VERSE

Introduce the key verse then have the kids watch the Key Verse video.

PRAY FOR WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON



WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

SONG 1: Star of the Morning

SONG 2: Angels We Have Heard



LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet time of responding to what God is teaching them.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May you trust that God has a plan for your life! May you believe that God loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save you from your sins, as part of His big plan!



TRANSITION

After the blessing, the Host should dismiss the kids to return quietly to their classroom (if applicable) and transition to Respond.

WORSHIP RESPONSE



REFLECT: God Has a Plan!

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Worship Response Station

Supplies: puzzle piece cards (1 per child), markers/writing utensils, puzzle piece

SAY:

Zechariah and his wife were given some pretty crazy news! An angel of God appeared to Zechariah one day to tell him that he would have a son, named John, who would prepare the way for Jesus. God's plan was hard for Zechariah and Elizabeth to believe because it seemed impossible because they were very old, but God called them to trust in His plan for their lives and for the coming savior, Jesus. God has a plan for our lives too, even when it's hard to believe!

DO:

- Ask the kids to quietly participate in the following activity. Say:
 - ***Zechariah didn't believe God's plan at first when the angel, Gabriel, told him... Sometimes it's hard to understand or trust in God's plans because we only see a tiny piece of the plan.***
 - (Hold up puzzle piece) ***What's this? A puzzle piece! If I just show you this one piece, can you tell me what the whole picture is? No! But you know that once it's all together, it will make a beautiful picture.***
 - ***Just like the puzzle piece, we know that our lives are part of God's bigger plan!***
 - ***Even though we can't see the whole picture yet, we can trust that God's plan for us is good because God loves us!***
 - ***We're each going to get a puzzle piece card. As we listen to worship music, draw yourself on the puzzle piece and thank God that He has a plan!***
 - ***When we're done, you will get to take this card home as a reminder that God has a plan for YOU!***
- Close the time by praying over the kids.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

SAY:

May you trust that God has a plan for your life! May you believe that God loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save you from your sins, as part of His big plan!

15
min

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



APPLY: Why Does it Matter?

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

Zechariah

2. What was the problem?

Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were very old and didn't have any children

3. What did God do?

God sent an angel to tell Zechariah that he would have a son named John who would prepare the way for Jesus.

4. Why does this matter to me?

Sometimes it's hard to understand or trust in God's plans because we only see a tiny piece of the plan. But God wants us to trust Him!

5. How can I apply this to my own life?

Examples: God wants us to trust His plans, even when it's hard. We can spend time praying and asking God to help us trust His plans.



PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together. Use the Prayer Tags from Check-In to write down prayer requests to take home and pray for during the week.



SAY:

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud.



DO:

Invite kids to pray for each other, then the leader closes in prayer.

As parents
arrive after
service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing them the announcement card and ensuring they take their weekly **Lesson Card**.