

LESSON 1

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

LUKE 1



BIBLE TRUTH

THE BABY TO BE BORN TO MARY WOULD BE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 1 from the Scriptures or read story 79, “The Birth of Jesus Foretold,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Lost for Words

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Zechariah costume: an old sheet, a towel for a head covering, a fake beard, and a staff

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Egg in the Jar

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two hard boiled eggs (Write the words “baby Jesus” on both eggs.)
- ✓ two large-mouth, quart-size canning jars with lids
- ✓ white bath towel

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 1—one copy for each child
- ✓ crayons or markers

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Good Gifts from God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ poster board—enough to make a pennant for each student
- ✓ felt-tip markers

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Two angels, two babies, one plan—Luke begins his gospel account by explaining the careful, orderly way he researched and retold the story of Jesus. After a short introduction, Luke tells of the angel Gabriel, who announced the coming of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ the Messiah. Two women, Elizabeth and Mary, were to conceive miraculously. Elizabeth was barren, much like Sarah (Abraham’s wife) was barren. Once again, God promised to fill a barren womb with life, demonstrating his magnificent power to accomplish his plan. Mary’s pregnancy was to be more amazing still. God himself would cause Mary, a virgin, to conceive a child by the Holy Spirit before she was even married! Her son, Jesus, would fulfill the Old Testament prophecy of an everlasting king on David’s throne. The angel further announced that the child would “be called holy—the Son of God” (Luke 1:35).

A gospel prophecy—After the angel told her about God’s plan, Mary hurried to see Elizabeth. When Mary arrived, Elizabeth’s unborn baby jumped inside her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said some amazing things. She said that Mary’s baby would be her Lord. She knew that Mary had believed Gabriel’s words and had faith that what he said would come to pass.

The birth of John the Baptist—Just as the angel of the Lord prophesied, Elizabeth gave birth to a son. People were surprised when Elizabeth decided to call him John because there was no one with that name in their family. When Zechariah confirmed that the baby was named John, he demonstrated faith in God’s plan and immediately regained his speech. The Holy Spirit filled Zechariah who prophesied that God had raised up a “horn of salvation” (Luke 1:69). This was a reference to Jesus.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

When Mary saw Elizabeth with child, she realized that what the angel Gabriel had told her was true. Then she heard Elizabeth's prophetic blessing. Filled with wonder and joy, she worshiped God with a song.

Mary was a sinner just like us. She needed a Savior (Luke 1:47), and she knew that God's promise was going to be fulfilled with the birth of the baby inside her. She knew that God's plan of salvation would somehow be about her son. Her words are a song of praise to God for his incredible promise to Abraham and his descendants. The fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham was going to come through Jesus. But Mary could not have understood that her son would be sacrificed on the cross in order to fulfill that promise. It is through Jesus that people from every nation are blessed.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 1 from the Scriptures or read story 79, "The Birth of Jesus Foretold," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Lost for Words

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Zechariah costume: an old sheet, a towel for a head covering, a fake beard, and a staff

Have one of the teachers dress up as Zechariah and use sign language to act out the message the angel gave him. Remember, because of his unbelief, Zechariah was made mute (unable to speak). This could be a humorous skit done ad-lib. A second teacher should try to guess Zechariah's message. Think of this as a game of charades where Zechariah is trying to communicate his vision.

Use the following questions to engage the children in a dialogue:

- **Does God's promise to Zechariah remind you of a promise he made to another Bible character?**
(Zechariah and Elizabeth remind us of Abraham and Sarah. Just like Sarah, Elizabeth was barren and was promised a son.)
- **What part in God's plan of redemption is Zechariah's son going to play?**
(John will announce the coming of Jesus and his ministry.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

Egg in the Jar

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two hard-boiled eggs
- ✓ two large-mouth, quart-size canning jars with lids
- ✓ white bath towel

To prepare, write the words "baby Jesus" on both eggs. Place one egg inside one of the jars and set it on a table; cover it with the towel.

In class, hold the egg (the one not in the jar) in one hand and the empty, lid-covered jar in the other hand. Ask for a volunteer to try to get the egg (baby Jesus) inside the jar (Mary's tummy) without opening the lid. Act as if it is possible and be surprised when your volunteer says that it can't be done. Interview your volunteer to try to get her to say that it's "impossible" to get the egg into the jar without taking off the lid. Once you have established with the class that it is impossible, set that jar down and retrieve the jar with the egg inside. Discuss the miracle

that God did in placing baby Jesus inside of Mary even though she had no husband. Though it was impossible, God did it.

Move on to ask the class what other impossible thing God did in this story. (He gave a baby to Elizabeth, who was barren.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 1—one copy for each child
- ✓ crayons or markers

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Where is the angel in the picture?**
(Help the children point out the angel.)
- **Why do you think Mary was a bit afraid when the angel first appeared?**
(Angels just don't appear every day in our lives. How do you think you would react if an angel popped into our classroom right now?)
- **What did the angel tell Mary?**
(The angel told Mary she was going to have a very special baby she would name Jesus.)
- **God asked Mary to be the mother of Jesus, and she said "yes." What is God calling us to do?**
(God is calling all of us to believe and trust in Jesus. Though Jesus came as a baby, he grew up to be the Savior of the world and died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. God calls all of us to believe.)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **10 MIN**

Good Gifts from God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ poster board—enough to make a pennant for each student
- ✓ felt-tip markers

Cut poster board into pennant-sized triangles (one for each student). Write a word from the list below in block letters on each of the triangles so that the children can color inside the letters.

In class, pass out the pennants and have the children color/decorate them with the markers. (If you have more than sixteen children, assign more than one child per banner.) After they are finished coloring, read Zechariah's prayer aloud (Luke 1:68–79). While you read have the child who has the corresponding word from that verse stand up and raise their banner. Then, after you have finished reading, have the children one by one, in order, shout out their words: Redeemed! Salvation! Saved! Mercy!, etc.

Verse 68—Redeemed

Verse 69—Salvation

Verse 71—Saved

Verse 72—Mercy

Verse 72—Promised

Verse 72—Remember

Verse 73—Oath

Verse 74—Delivered

Verse 75—Holiness

Verse 75—Righteousness

Verse 76—Prophet of the Most High

Verse 77—Salvation

Verse 77—Forgiveness

Verse 78—Tender mercy

Verse 79—Light

Verse 79—Peace

LESSON 1 - THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

