

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**

From the Angel's Perspective

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ strobe light or spotlight that can be turned on and off quickly
- ✓ white sheet (for an angel costume)
- ✓ blankets (to cover the windows to help darken your room if you have no shades)
- ✓ actor to play the angel

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

Zechariah's Prophecy

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencils
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

7. ACTIVITY TIME **20 MIN**

Write Your Own Praise Song or Poem

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencil and paper

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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

“Your Relative Elizabeth”

Elizabeth and Mary were related (see Luke 1:36). Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron (Luke 1:5), therefore, since they were relatives, Mary also was a descendant of Aaron. The angel tells us that her Son Jesus is a descendant of David (Luke 1:32). This means that one of Mary’s ancestors came from the kingly line of David and another from the priestly line of Aaron; therefore, Jesus would be both a priest and a king.

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

From the Angel's Perspective

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ strobe light or spotlight that can be turned on and off quickly
- ✓ white sheet (for an angel costume)

- ✓ blankets (to cover the windows to help darken your room if you have no shades)
- ✓ actor to play the angel

Prior to class set up the strobe or spotlight in the front of the class, hang the blankets over any existing windows, and turn off your classroom lights. The idea is to retell the story as the narrator and when you get to Luke 1:28, turn on the strobe light and have the angel move his arms slowly to accentuate the lines. The children will be amazed by the sudden flashes of light. Turn off the strobe and have the angel leave when the angel departs (Luke 1:38).

Draw out the children to find out if they were startled by the strobe light. Then talk about how amazed Mary would have been by the angel. Finally ask the class if they can tell you what is most amazing about the angel’s message. (Mary would conceive by the power of God and her baby would be the Son of God!)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Zechariah’s Prophecy

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencils
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Have the children read Zechariah’s prophecy in Luke 1:68–79 and then, with paper and pencil list everything we learn about Jesus in this passage. Their lists should have some of the following:

- VERSE 68:** “The Lord God of Israel...has visited his people.” (Jesus was God visiting us.)
- VERSE 68:** “[God has] redeemed his people.” (Jesus is the Redeemer.)
- VERSE 69:** “[God] has raised up a horn of salvation.” (Jesus is the Savior.)
- VERSE 69:** “In the house of his servant David” (Jesus is a descendant of David.)
- VERSE 70:** “[God] spoke by...his holy prophets.” (Jesus fulfills the word of the prophets.)
- VERSE 71:** “Saved from our enemies” (Jesus would save Israel from their enemies.)
- VERSES 74–75:** Israel would be able to serve God in “righteousness.” (This is impossible without the cross.)

- VERSE 76:** “[John] will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.” (Jesus, the Lord, will have his way prepared by John.)
- VERSE 77:** John will announce that Jesus is the way to salvation and forgiveness of sins.
- VERSE 79:** “[Jesus will] give light to those who sit in darkness.” (Jesus will give light to those in sin’s darkness.)
- VERSE 79:** “Guide our feet into the way of peace” (Jesus is the Prince of Peace.)

Ask, “What is amazing about this prophecy?” (Zechariah’s prophecy announces that the Messiah has come and that his salvation would be more than a saving from Israel’s enemies such as the Romans. This salvation would bring forgiveness from sins and give light to those who sit in the shadow of death, and guide them to the way of peace.)

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**

Write Your Own Praise Song or Poem

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencil and paper

Mary sang a spontaneous song that is recorded in Luke 1:46–55. Have the children each work on a song of God’s faithfulness to them. Have them first make a list of all that God has done for them. Help them keep the list spiritual (God saved me), not material (God gave me a new bike). After their list is complete, have them poetically arrange it. Have them look at Mary’s song and Zechariah’s prophecy for some ideas.

Have several of the children read their work to the class. (As they are working walk around the class looking at their work to ensure you don’t call on someone to share who is struggling with the assignment or just being silly with what they write.)

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