

ENDURING
FAITH[™]

Sunday School • Midweek
Bible Curriculum

ONE-ROOM STUDY GUIDE

Unit 7: Jesus Comes for Us



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

THE ONE-ROOM CLASSROOM

This guide was created for leaders who teach multiple ages in one classroom. Options for younger and older children, size, and ability of your group help you tailor the lessons to your needs. Checkboxes help you choose and prepare the activities for each lesson.

OVERVIEW

The Overview lets you see the biblical foundation of each lesson at a glance. All levels of the Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum share the same Bible Truth, Bible Verse, Law & Gospel, and Scripture Snapshot, allowing families to learn together each week.

LESSON PREP

Use these suggestions for your own Bible study as you prepare to lead this lesson.

Basic: Begin here—read the full Bible text.

More Time: Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

In Depth: Gain a deeper understanding of the narrative and its context.

SUPPLIES

For This Lesson: Gather only the supplies for the activities you choose to use. You may want to put together a Supply Box of frequently used items to keep on hand. Look below for suggestions of items to include in the Supply Box.

For Every Lesson: Use this checklist as a reminder of items that you may want on hand for every lesson.

SUPPLY BOX

The items in the Supply Box are used frequently. Gather them to be prepared for many of the lesson activities.

- ☐ White copy paper, construction paper, tissue paper
- ☐ Crayons, markers, colored pencils, pencils, pens
- ☐ Paint, paint brushes, and smocks
- ☐ School glue, glue sticks, tape, glitter glue
- ☐ Child-friendly scissors, hole punch, stapler
- ☐ Yarn, pom-poms, craft sticks, pipe cleaners
- ☐ Wiggle eyes, beads, buttons, stickers
- ☐ Paper plates, paper lunch bags, paper cups
- ☐ Play dough and tools
- ☐ Poster board or large sheets of paper

LAUNCH

Begin: Use the Opening Worship, the Lesson Opening, and/or music from the digital resource center.

Say: Choose an option to help get children thinking.

Prayer: Call upon God's name and ask for His guidance as you study His Word.

LEARN

Tell the Bible Narrative: Two narrative options are provided—one for younger children and one for older children.

Do This: Choose an option to review the lesson.

Talk about It: Choose questions to fit the learning level of your group.

Key Discussion Points: These points guide your discussion and highlight biblical truths.

Christ Connection: This shows how Jesus is central to every lesson.

LIVE

A variety of activity options lets you choose how you will reinforce the Bible truths of the lesson. Choose from crafts, snack, movement, Bible Verse fun, and more. Remember to gather the supplies you will need for each activity option you choose.

LEAVE

Say: This thought sums up the truth of the lesson.

Prayer: Give thanks to God for His blessings, love, and new life in Jesus.

DIGITAL RESOURCE CENTER

Additional resources are available in the online digital resource center at cph.org/digitalcontent. Ask your coordinator for access to the materials in the online digital resource center.

PLANNING PAGES

See Planning Pages for Leader Devotions, Order of Opening Worship, and Lesson Openings.

MUSIC RESOURCES

Ask your coordinator for access to music for each unit.

ENDURING FAITH PAGES

Enduring Faith Pages provide a reproducible take-home resource that gives a summary of each Bible lesson and provides suggestions for “taking home” Bible truths from the lesson. Each page also has an illustrated version of the day's Bible Verse, perfect for coloring.

DOWNLOADABLE ACTIVITY PAGES

Each lesson has an extra activity page that can be downloaded and photocopied.

AN ANGEL ANNOUNCES

Jesus' Birth
Foretold
Luke 1:26–56
4 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God promised to send His Son.

BIBLE VERSE

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Luke 1:46–47

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God promised to send His Son, Jesus.

LAW & GOSPEL

Like Mary, I deserve nothing from God because of my sinfulness.

God gives me unmerited grace and favor because of His Son.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Mary receives an angelic announcement telling her that, despite her virginity, she will give birth to the long-awaited Savior. The child in Elizabeth's womb leaps within her when the mother of the promised Messiah approaches. Elizabeth rejoices in the reaction and welcomes Mary to stay with her for a time. Mary's song of praise, the Magnificat, resounds in the Church to this day.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Luke 1:26–56 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read Hannah's song and the study notes in 1 Samuel 2:1–10 in *TLSB*.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ White board or poster paper and markers
- ☐ Blanket, bubble solution and wands
- ☐ Small paper or foam cups, permanent markers, pipe cleaners, jingle bells, pony beads
- ☐ Round crackers, cheese slices, paper plates
- ☐ Play dough, circle- and triangle-shaped cookie cutters, rolling pins
- ☐ Construction paper, paper doilies

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Device with prepped music
- ☐ Copies of downloadable activity page
- ☐ Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- ☐ Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- ☐ Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- ☐ Sing songs, using music found in the digital resource center or your own favorite songs.

SAY

- ☐ **Hi, boys and girls! I'm glad you are here.** Build relationships with the children by asking about their week and celebrating birthdays or Baptisms.
- ☐ **When there is really important news that everyone needs to know, what's the best way to share it?** (Talk about all the ways we share big news.) **God has some big news to share in the Book of Luke. He shares that news in a way that only He can.**

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for Your love. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us listen and learn more today. Amen.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- ☐ **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** After you have read the narrative once, assign a student or teams of students to consider this event from the different perspectives of Mary, Gabriel, and Elizabeth. Students can write their ideas on paper; then have each student or group prepare to tell the narrative from the perspective of one of the women or the angel. They can take turns retelling the narrative from those different perspectives.
- ☐ **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** When news reporters write stories, they try to find out the who, what, where, when, why, and how of a story. List those headings on the board or a piece of poster paper. Then assign pairs of students to report on one of those aspects of the narrative. As you read, have each pair listen for their focus. After reading the narrative, set a timer for students to get with their partner to answer the question, then be ready to report back to the group.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- ☐ What did the angel tell Mary?
- ☐ How do you think Mary felt when she heard the angel's news? How did she respond?
- ☐ Jesus' birth is still a big deal. How can we share this big news now?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion, using these key points.

- The angel told Mary that she would be the mother of the Savior, Jesus.
- Being pregnant before she was married meant that Mary could face ridicule and even danger. But Mary did not question God. She rejoiced because she believed God that the Savior would be born from her.
- Encourage children to share how they can tell the Good News that Jesus is the Savior of the world.



CHRIST CONNECTION

God visited Mary and made her a great promise. That promise has been fulfilled for us in Jesus.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: At the end of the story, do the song with children.

Long, long ago, God created a good and perfect world. But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their sin changed everything. After that, everyone sinned. Nothing was perfect anymore. But God still loved us. He promised to send a Savior, who would pay for our sins. For many years, God's people waited and waited for the Savior. Then, at just the right time, God kept His promise. This is how He did it.

A young woman named Mary loved God very much. Mary was happy because soon she would marry Joseph. One day, Mary had a wonderful surprise.

Mary was at her house when suddenly, she saw an angel! God had sent His angel Gabriel. The angel said, "Hello, Mary! You are special to God. He is with you."

Mary was a little afraid! She had never seen an angel before. But she listened carefully to what the angel told her. He said, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God has sent me with news that will make you happy." Mary was surprised enough to see the angel, but then he told her something even more surprising! He said, "Soon you will have a baby boy. He will be God's Son. His name will be Jesus. That means 'God saves.'"

Mary knew the angel was talking about the Savior God had promised long ago. But Mary was puzzled. She asked, "How can I be the mother of God's Son? I am not even married yet."

The angel told her, "God can do anything. He has chosen

you to be the mother of His Son. Your relative Elizabeth is going to have a baby too, even though she is very old. God keeps all His promises!"

Mary was happy. She knew God kept His promises. She thought, "I am not worthy. I sin too. But God has chosen me to be Jesus' mother." Then she told Gabriel, "I will do everything God asks me to do. May it happen as you said." Then the angel left.

After that, Mary hurried to see Elizabeth. When Mary went into the house, the baby inside Elizabeth jumped for joy. Mary told Elizabeth about the angel's visit. Elizabeth told Mary, "You are blessed because you will be the mother of God's Son."

Then Mary sang a song to praise God. Mary rejoiced that she would be Jesus' mother. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for a few months. Then she went back home, and they all waited for God's promise to come true.

Sing to the tune of "Bingo."

**Mary soon will have a Son,
and you will name Him Jesus.**

J-e-s-u-s. J-e-s-u-s. J-e-s-u-s.

And you will name Him Jesus.

He'll save people from their sins,

so you will name Him Jesus.

J-e-s-u-s. J-e-s-u-s. J-e-s-u-s.

So you will name Him Jesus.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

God sent the angel Gabriel to a town called Nazareth to a young woman named Mary. She had promised to marry a man named Joseph, and they were waiting for their wedding, when they could move in together and start their family.

The angel appeared to Mary and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" Mary was very surprised and troubled to have an angel come to her. Gabriel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. You will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus." He told her this child would be great and would be called "the Son of the Most High."

Mary believed the angel, but she wondered how she would become the mother of this child because she wasn't married to Joseph yet. The angel told her the Holy Spirit would come to her and use His mighty power to give her this baby. The angel said Jesus would be great; He would rule on the throne of His ancestor David and reign over the house of Jacob forever. Mary knew this was the Savior God had promised so long ago to Adam and Eve; to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and to King David. Finally, the angel Gabriel told Mary that her relative Elizabeth was going to

have a baby because of God's great power, even though she was way too old to have a baby.

Mary believed the angel and replied, "I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

Mary decided to leave Nazareth and go visit Zechariah and Elizabeth in Judah. She traveled quickly and came to Zechariah's house. When she saw Elizabeth, Mary said hello. Right at that moment, Elizabeth's baby started leaping inside her. She was filled with the Holy Spirit. Even though Mary hadn't said a word about being pregnant, Elizabeth knew that Mary was carrying a baby, and she knew this baby was the Lord, the promised Son of God.

Mary was amazed God had chosen her to be the mother of His precious Son. She began praising Him in words we call "The Song of Mary." The more Mary thought about it, the more she realized how amazing God is. She praised God for keeping His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Mary spent three months with Zechariah and Elizabeth. These must have been wonderful days, talking about God's great love and feeling the babies grow inside them.

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

☐ Wait, Wait, Go! Game

Have children stand still as you slowly say “Wait, wait, wait.” When you say “Go,” the children may hop, jump, wiggle, and move around until you say “Freeze.” Then they are to stand still again. Repeat. After several turns, talk about how it is hard to wait, especially if you are waiting for something fun like a birthday or event. Connect to how God’s people waited for Jesus to come.



☐ J-E-S-U-S Song

Sing to the tune of “Bingo.”
Mary soon will have a Son,
and you will name Him Jesus.
J-e-s-u-s. J-e-s-u-s. J-e-s-u-s.
And you will name Him Jesus.
He’ll save people from their sins,
so you will name Him Jesus.
J-e-s-u-s. J-e-s-u-s. J-e-s-u-s.
So you will name Him Jesus.



☐ Surprise Bubbles

Set a blanket on the floor and let the children blow bubbles onto it. They will be surprised to see that bubbles blown onto a softer surface don’t pop right away. Ask, **Were you surprised your bubbles didn’t pop right away? Blowing bubbles is fun! It makes us happy. In our Bible story, two women are surprised and happy too. One is Mary and the other is Elizabeth. We can be happy, too, because Jesus is our Friend.** Sing a few stanzas of “Love in a Box” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 35) or another happy song.



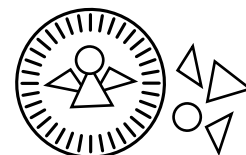
☐ JOY Bell Craft

Use a small paper or foam cup for each bell. Place the cup upside down. Use a permanent marker to write JOY on the cup. Cut a 6-inch piece of pipe cleaner. Fold it in half and thread both ends through a pony bead. Poke a hole in the cup bottom. Thread both ends of the pipe cleaner into the hole so the bead covers the hole and leaves a loop of pipe cleaner for a handle. Inside the cup, thread on another pony bead and a jingle bell. Twist the pipe cleaner ends to keep beads and bell in place. Decorate with stickers. Sing “Joy to the World” together.



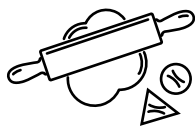
☐ Angel Snack

Let the children make their own angel snack. Give each child a round cracker, and one large and two small triangles of sliced cheese. Have them match the cracker and cheese shapes to angel shapes you have drawn on paper plates.



☐ Play-Dough Angels

Use play dough, circle- and triangle-shaped cookie cutters, and a rolling pin to cut out triangles and circles. Show how to make angels with triangles for the body and wings and a circle for the head. Say, **God made angels to serve Him. They bring us messages from God, and they protect us. In our story, an angel brought a special message about the birth of Jesus!**



☐ Angel Ornaments

Cut from construction paper small round circles for heads and large triangles for bodies. Give children a doily to fold in half and attach to the triangle for wings. Say, **Gabriel was God’s messenger. The Bible says angels are so awesome looking that people are often afraid. That’s why one of the first things an angel says is “Don’t be afraid.”** Angels are God’s helpers.



LEAVE

SAY

God promised to send His Son to be our Savior. He made that promise to Adam and Eve. Today, we learned how God used Mary and Elizabeth to fulfill His promise to all of us.

PRAY

Dear Lord, thank You for fulfilling Your promise of a Savior in Jesus to be God in the flesh. This is amazing news! Help us to be like Mary and receive all these blessings in faith. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

SILENCE BEFORE A SON

John Is Born
Luke 1:5–25,
57–66
3 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God sent John as His messenger.

BIBLE VERSE

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people. Luke 1:68

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God sent John as His messenger.

LAW & GOSPEL

As a child of the first parents, Adam and Eve, I am sinful and in need of salvation.

John, and others who proclaim the Good News, point me to Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Doubting the angel's announcement of his coming son, Zechariah finds himself silenced until the boy's birth. Upon writing, "His name is John," Zechariah regains his voice and prophesies concerning his son's work.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Luke 1:5–25, 57–66 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read "The Temple in Luke" in *TLSB*, page 1705.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Poster paper and markers
- ☐ Back pocket of old jeans/corduroy pants or paper craft bag, one for each child; ribbon; decorations such as buttons, sequins, washi tape, fabric paint
- ☐ Markers, glitter pens, stickers, tissue paper
- ☐ Alphabet cereal, clear plastic cups, small paper plates
- ☐ Black construction paper, cardstock, chalk or white crayons

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Device with prepped music
- ☐ Copies of downloadable activity page
- ☐ Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- ☐ Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- ☐ Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- ☐ Sing songs, using music found in the digital resource center or your own favorite songs.

SAY

- ☐ **Hi, boys and girls! Have you ever gotten a letter or package in the mail? Who did it come from? Today, you'll hear about a time God sent a message to someone in a special way.**
- ☐ **What does it mean when someone tells you to get ready? What do you do to get ready for a party? for school? for church? to go on vacation? for a piano or music recital? for a big sports game or meet? You do different things to get ready for different events, right? Today, we're going to learn about who God sent to help the world get ready for Jesus.**

PRAY

Dear Jesus, You know our names. Thank You for loving us and making us Your children. Help us listen and learn about the special helper You sent to get people ready for You long ago. Amen.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or more of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- ☐ **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** Have children take turns acting out the parts of Zechariah, Gabriel, Elizabeth, and their friends and family.
- ☐ **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** Students who are strong readers can read this narrative directly from Scripture. After you have read it together as a group, talk about the events; then divide students into pairs or small groups to sketch out the events of the narrative on poster paper in storyboard form.
- ☐ **FOR A MIX OF AGES** Review with students what they remember about the Old Testament, particularly the prophets who pointed toward the coming Savior. Help them see that John the Baptist is here to do the same thing, sort of like a bridge between the Old and New Testaments. Remind students that it had been hundreds of years since the Lord has sent a prophet or an angel.

TALK ABOUT IT

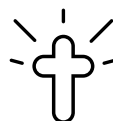
Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- ☐ What message did the angel have for Zechariah?
- ☐ What would the baby do when he grew up?
- ☐ How does God send us His message today?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion, using these key points.

- Zechariah's wife, Elizabeth, would have a baby boy. They should name him John.
- When John grew up, he would be a special helper for God. He would get people ready for Jesus.
- Today, God sends us His message of salvation through His Word, the Bible. We hear God's message when we go to church and Sunday School and read and listen to His Word.



CHRIST CONNECTION

John was God's special messenger who came to point the way to the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Have children join you in singing the song after the story. Talk about who they can share the Good News about Jesus with.

Zechariah and Elizabeth loved God very much. They were old enough to be grandparents, but they had no children. Zechariah was a priest. A priest is like our pastor. One time, it was his turn to serve in God's house, the temple. So Zechariah went to Jerusalem, the town where the temple-church was.

One day, Zechariah was doing something special in the temple-church. He was burning incense on the altar. All the people were praying outside.

Suddenly, the angel Gabriel was standing by the altar! I wonder . . . how do you think Zechariah felt?

Zechariah was scared to see an angel! The angel Gabriel told him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah. God heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will have a baby boy. You will name him John. When John grows up, he will be a special helper for God. He will get people ready for Jesus.

Zechariah was surprised to hear this good news. He asked the angel, "Are you sure of this? Elizabeth and I are too old to have a baby."

The angel said, "God sent me to tell you this good news. Because you did not believe God's message, you will not be able to talk until the baby is born."

When Zechariah came out of the temple-church, he could not talk. The people wondered what had happened

to him. Zechariah stayed at the temple-church and finished his time of service. Then he went back home to Elizabeth.

Gabriel's message was true. Soon after, Elizabeth found out she was going to have a baby. After the baby was born, Zechariah's family and friends came to see the new baby. They wanted to know what the new parents were naming their little baby. Elizabeth said, "His name is John."

The friends and family were all surprised. "None of your relatives are named John. Don't you want to name him Zechariah, after his father?"

Then Zechariah asked for a writing tablet. He wrote on it, "His name is John." This was what the angel had told them to name the baby. Right away, Zechariah could talk again. He sang a beautiful song to praise God. In the song, he told how John would be God's helper and tell others the good news about Jesus.

God sends good news messages to us too. His best message is that He loves us and sent Jesus to be our Savior.

Say or sing this to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It":

I can tell God's Good News; I can tell.

I can tell God's Good News; I can tell.

I am happy I can see Jesus came for you and me.

I can tell God's Good News; I can tell.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

When it was almost the time God wanted to send His Son into the world, He sent the angel Gabriel to the Holy Place of the temple in Jerusalem to appear to Zechariah, a priest there.

Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, both loved God and trusted His promise to send the Savior. Many years before, Zechariah had prayed that God would give them a child, but now they were very old, and no child had ever come.

When Gabriel suddenly appeared, Zechariah was terrified. The angel told him, "Do not be afraid, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you shall call his name John."

The angel told him that his son would be great and would go before the Lord as His mighty messenger. He would prepare God's people to receive His Son, whom He had promised so long ago to Adam and Eve.

This great promise surprised Zechariah. He answered, "How will I know this? I am an old man, and my wife is old too." He didn't believe God's promise because he thought Elizabeth was way too old to have a baby.

The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. God sent me to speak to you and to bring you this good news. Because you did not believe my words, you will be unable to speak until the

day that these things take place." When the angel left him, Zechariah came out of the temple but could not say a word.

When his time to serve at the temple ended, he returned home and Elizabeth became pregnant. When Elizabeth had her baby, all their neighbors celebrated with them and praised God for being so good. All this time, Zechariah remained silent, unable to speak.

The eighth day of life was very special for Israelite boys. This was the day they were circumcised and given their very own name. Zechariah and Elizabeth's neighbors and relatives gathered to celebrate this special day.

When it was time to name the baby, the guests wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father. But Elizabeth said, "No; he shall be called John." Everyone was puzzled: "None of your relatives is called by this name." They turned to Zechariah to see what he wanted to name him. Zechariah took a writing tablet and wrote down in front of them all, "His name is John."

Suddenly, God opened Zechariah's mouth so he could talk again. Zechariah was able to praise and thank God the way he should have done when the angel Gabriel first spoke to him.

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

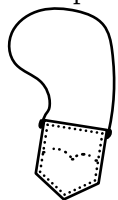
☐ Leap for Joy

Say, **In Lesson 1, we learned that Elizabeth said that the baby in her womb (John) leaped when Mary (who was pregnant with Jesus) entered the room. You can leap for joy too!** Line up your group and have each person take a big leap after naming a blessing God has given him or her. Keep going until everyone has leaped several times.



☐ Messenger Bag

For each child, cut around the back pocket of old jeans or corduroy pants, leaving the pocket intact. Hand-sew a long piece of ribbon to the top for a handle. Have children decorate it with buttons, sequins, washi tape, fabric paint, and such. Option: Purchase paper craft bags and set out art supplies for each child to decorate one. Talk about how God sent John to be His messenger and tell people about Jesus. Children can use their messenger bags to carry a Bible storybook or Sunday School projects.



☐ Action Chant

God sent an angel; (*Spread arms for wings.*)
He had good news to tell. (*Cup mouth.*)
He said to Zechariah, (*Spread arms for wings.*)
“You’ll have a baby boy.” (*Rock a “baby.”*)
Zechariah heard it, (*Cup hands behind ears.*)
But he did not believe. (*Shake head no.*)
God kept His promise (*Point up.*)
And baby John was born. (*Rock a “baby.”*)
God sends His Good News (*Spread arms wide.*)
To you and me. (*Point to others and self.*)
His best news is Jesus; (*Make a finger cross.*)
He came for you and me. (*Point to others and self.*)



☐ Name Decorating

Use markers to write each child’s name in bubble letters on a sheet of paper. Say, **In our Bible story, God gave some parents a special baby and told them what to name him. You are a blessing from God to your family. Your name is special too!** Set out supplies to decorate names (e.g., glitter pens, stickers, tissue paper).



☐ Alphabet Snack

Pour alphabet cereal into clear plastic cups. Write children’s names on small paper plates, and encourage them to find some of the letters in their names. Ask, **What can you do with your letters? Can you find any of the letters in your name? Do you remember what Zechariah wrote on his slate tablet?** (His name is John.)



☐ His Name Is John

Using black construction paper mounted on cardstock or cardboard and white chalk or crayons, have students write, “His name is John,” as Zechariah did. Have students use these to practice retelling the narrative to one another and their families. They could decorate the border with arrows to show that John was here to point the way to Jesus.

John

☐ Baby Talk

Invite someone in your church who is expecting a baby to come and talk with the children. Ask the person to bring along items she has gathered for the new baby and tell what she is doing to get ready. Ask about the process of choosing the baby’s name. Tell children that they are special to you and God. God calls them by name in Baptism and makes them His children. He has jobs for them too. Consider a project to collect baby items for a shelter.



LEAVE

SAY

John wasn’t just any baby. God sent John to be His special messenger to prepare the way for Jesus so that we may know our Savior.

PRAY

Dear Lord God, heavenly Father, thank You for sending John to prepare the world for Jesus. Thank You for keeping Your promise to send a Savior, Your Son, Jesus. We love You, Lord. Amen.