

New Testament 1: God Sends His Son to Save Us

Engage CD

Cross Explorations® Sunday School

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Written by Cynthia A. Wheeler and Amy N. Luckemeyer

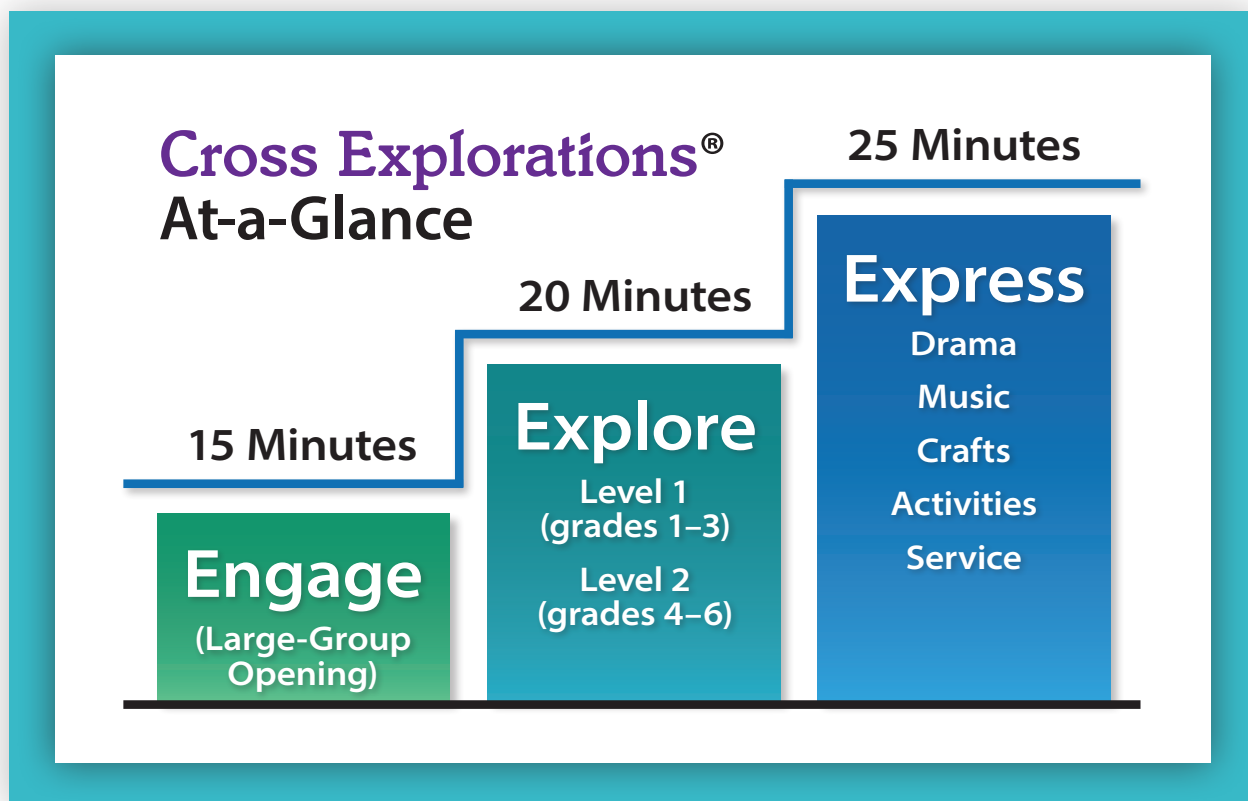
Edited by Amy N. Luckemeyer

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What's on the Express Activities & More CD?

The Express Activities & More CD gives you a choice of activities to help kids apply the Bible lesson to their lives. It includes science, music, games, snacks, service projects, and more, organized by week and by type of activity. Choose activities that fit the time you have available and the talents of your volunteers.

Do not expect to do all the activities each week. Rather, vary the ones you choose from week to week so students get a chance to experience different types of learning. If you use Cross Explorations in a Midweek setting, use any extra time to include additional small-group Express options.

The Craft Patterns folder on the Activities & More CD has patterns for the crafts you will find in the separate Craft Booklet in the Cross Explorations kit.

Site Leaders

Cross Explorations site leaders do what they do best! If you love helping kids apply the Bible truths in the lessons through music, games, science activities, themed food, service projects, and the like, you'd make an excellent site leader for the Express activities on this CD. Recruit people with other talents or strengths to lead activities you are not as comfortable doing.

Site Location

Express sessions offer flexibility for meeting locations. You may choose to meet in separate classrooms that are set up for specific sites or in one larger space.

If you have multiple sites in one space, use rolling dividers, moveable walls, or even fabric panels to block sight and sound distractions. Food options will sometimes require kitchen access.

God Sends His Son to Save Us

New Testament 1 • Activities At-a-Glance

Lesson	Activity	Food	Service
1	Zechariah Charades	A Message for You	
2	Secret Messages Whispering the Magnificat	Angels All around Us	Helping Young Mothers
3	Unbelievable!	Traveling Trail Mix	
4	God's Light on Earth Straight Path of Scripture	Look at Jesus!	
5	Trust in Jesus	How Do I Know?	
6	Bursting Pomegranates Happy Birthday Party	Haystacks Snack	
7	Cascades of Praise Pop Goes Perfection	The Best Announcement	
8	God Gives the Best Gifts Shiny Gifts	Sandwich Presents	
9	What's in God's House? Your Mission Is . . .	Stained Glass Cookies	Housekeeping for God
10	Floating Fruit	Heart-of-Joy Snack	
11	Baptism Talk Water Game	Water-and-the-Word Snack	Baptism Family Tree
12	God's Power to Resist Temptation Role Play	Tempting Treats	
13	Gathering Strength	Come and See	

Preparing the Lesson

Date of Use

The Birth of John Foretold

Luke 1:5–25



Key Point

God promised to send John to prepare sinners to receive the Savior. Through His Word, God calls us to repent and declares us righteous because of Jesus.

Law/Gospel

I sin when I doubt God's Word and promises. **God sent His Son to forgive my sin and works through His Word and Sacraments to give me faith to believe and to strengthen my trust in Him.**

Context

God set up the regulations for the tabernacle, and later the temple, in order to establish and maintain His people. God is merciful in providing sacrifices to cleanse that which is unclean and make holy that which is common.

Commentary

God promises to make His people a holy nation, a kingdom of priests. Zechariah and his fellow priests followed all the temple regulations with the result that God's people were taught right from wrong and that God loves and forgives them.

The name *Zechariah* means "God will remember." God remembered His people by sending His holy messenger Gabriel to Zechariah to announce the birth of John, the forerunner and relative of Jesus. Zechariah was not only rightfully gripped with fear, but he also doubted God's message.

Would we not also doubt? After all, God had not sent a prophet or an angel for centuries. Yet God forgave Zechariah's doubting and gave him the cross of muteness to bear as a sign of the coming blessing of John, whose name means "the Lord is gracious and moved to pity."

Even when we bear our crosses, they testify to Christ. In this world or in the next, He gives us so much joy that all suffering for His sake will be forgotten, swallowed up in His love and abundant gifts.

God knows us, loves us, and desires to save us, even before we are born. God does not forgive us because of our worldly righteousness, but because Jesus exchanged His perfect righteousness for our deep and abiding sin when He was killed on the cross in our place. All those who speak the truth of God's love speak about the person and work of Jesus for us. Our human thoughts and frailties do not limit God's love. Nothing is impossible with God.

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.



Phil Howe. © CPH.

Preparing the Lesson

Date of Use

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1:26–38



Key Point

Because of Christ, God favored Mary and chose her to be the mother of the Savior. Because of Christ, God favors us and chooses us to be His children.

Law/Gospel

Like Mary, I deserve nothing from God because of my sinfulness. **God gives me unmerited grace and favor because of His Son.**

Context

The angel Gabriel visited both Zechariah, Elizabeth's husband, and Mary, Elizabeth's relative. Elizabeth was too old to have a baby, while Mary was too young—still a virgin—only engaged to be married.

Commentary

This story about Mary begins “in the sixth month” (v. 26), that is, six months after John the Baptist was conceived. Gabriel appears to Mary with a message from God: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (v. 35). This came about exactly as Gabriel described it would: the Holy Spirit conceived Jesus Christ within Mary.

While Elizabeth had the support of her husband, Mary faced the possible loss of her reputation, her family, her fiancé, and even her life. Not only could she be stoned to

death for supposed adultery, but she could also die because of complications of pregnancy and childbirth. In spite of the looming mix of joy and fear at Gabriel's message, Mary did not question God. She submitted to His will because she first received the Gospel, the Christ to be born from her womb. Her faith accepted the unacceptable, and for Christ's sake, all generations do call her blessed.

As Paul says in Philippians 1:6, any good work or blessing comes through Jesus Christ alone, who will complete that good work in the day of His second coming, even as He will execute judgment on the wicked.

The Good News of Christ embraces both His suffering and death for us on Calvary and also His return as Lord and Judge. It is His Word that counts, not the words of the world. That means we can trust His Word in spite of all worldly cares and fears. We can accept the unacceptable in Christ's name.

Like Mary, we can bear the most fearful of crosses that God gives us as blessings in Christ. We believe that the worst evil that might strike us in this world cannot overcome the Judge of all worlds and ages. Our victory in Christ is an eternal victory. Like Mary, we are eternally blessed.

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.



Cheri Bladholm. © CPH.

POWERPOINT TIPS

The slides on this CD work with PowerPoint versions from 2003 forward.

The full PowerPoint program is available as part of Microsoft Office for PCs or Macs. A variety of programs on Apple computers convert and use PowerPoint files as well.

Troubleshooting

Fonts may alter the look of your slides.

1. Different versions of PowerPoint may provide slides that look slightly different than the originals. You might see odd spacing or words that run out of a text box or off the page. You may see odd placement of Bible references.

The problem comes from different fonts on the computers that made the slides and the one you use. Even fonts with the same names may differ from one computer or system to another.

2. To help, we use fonts embedded in Microsoft Office programs and common to most computers. Using the Microsoft Office fonts should take care of most differences between the two operating systems.
3. We also prepare and check slides on PC and Mac computers to make sure they work with both systems.
4. If you find odd spacing with apostrophes and quotation marks, change a setting in your PowerPoint program. After doing so, you might need to retype the punctuation marks to get rid of the odd spacing.

For Macs, when in the PowerPoint program, click "PowerPoint" along the top menu and choose "Preferences" from a pull-down menu. Choose "Autoformat As You Type." Click to check the box in front of "Straight quotes with smart quotes."

For PCs, go to File/Options/Proofing/Autocorrect Options. Choose "Autoformat as you type" and click to mark the choice that says "Straight Quotes with Smart Quotes."

Editing slides

If you have Microsoft Office with PowerPoint, you can edit these slides or copy and paste them into different presentations. Some animations may not work in pre-2003 versions of PowerPoint.

(PowerPoint 1997 does not copy and paste slides easily. Please consult your software manual for help.)

When editing and creating slides, you may have difficulties when you cut and paste elements from one slide or presentation to another. However, this is very easy to do with a few tips.

PowerPoint defaults to the design template of the presentation you are pasting slides **into** and does not automatically carry over design elements from the slide you copied. This means you can lose art, photos, and other elements of the original slide. To retain the design of the original slide, do these things.

1. Make sure you are in NORMAL view.
2. Copy slides from the source (right-click to bring up the menu and choose COPY), and then put your cursor below or between the slides in the presentation to insert the copied slides.
3. Paste slides into the new presentation (right click to bring up menu and choose PASTE).
4. When you do, a small clipboard icon appears at the bottom right-hand corner or somewhere near the new slides. (If it does not appear, undo and reinsert.) Click on the clipboard. Two choices appear in a menu below the clipboard: 1) Keep source formatting; OR 2) Use design template formatting. To retain the design elements of the copied slide, choose 1. To take on attributes of the new presentation, choose 2.

Playing Slides with Linked Music

Open the PPT file. The music slides will automatically play when you click to the first page of lyrics. Do not click again until the song finishes.

If you copy slides with linked music to any other system or folder, you must copy the Mp3 files (music) to the same folder as the PPT slides. Otherwise, the presentations will not know where to find and use the sound files. You also may need to relink the presentation and the Mp3 files again. Delete the audio icon from the slide. Choose the INSERT menu. Choose AUDIO (notes icon) and then choose AUDIO FROM FILE. Navigate to the folder where the PPT and Mp3 files reside. Highlight the song that matches the slide. Click insert.





Lesson 1 Handout

The Birth of John Foretold

Luke 1:5–25

Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Song

Opening Sentences

Lift Up Your Heads

Leader: Lift up your heads and open your eyes,

People: for He is coming.

Leader: Who is coming?

People: The King of glory!

Leader: Blessings on Him who comes as King,

People: who comes in the name of the Lord.

Leader: We remember the One who comes—Jesus, the light of the world. He came as a baby in a manger.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: He came to be our Savior.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: With joy and gladness,

People: we celebrate His coming.

Leader: He comes to us each day in the promise of His presence.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Let us open our hearts to Him,

People: and walk in His ways.

Leader: He will come again to take us to Himself in heaven.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Song

Presentation

Offering and Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread; and forgive us our trespasses as
we forgive those who trespass against
us; and lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For Thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Song

Lesson 2 Handout

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1:26–38

Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Song

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 40

Leader: Every valley shall be lifted up,

People: and every mountain and hill be made low;

Leader: the uneven ground shall become level,

People: and the rough places a plain.

Leader: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,

People: for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (Isaiah 40:4–5)

Leader: Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;

People: lift up your voice with strength,

Leader: O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

People: lift it up, fear not;

Leader: say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” (Isaiah 40:9)

People: He will tend His flock like a shepherd;

Leader: He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom,

People: and gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40:11)

Song

Presentation

Offering and Prayers

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,
that You have kept me this night from
all harm and danger; and I pray that You
would keep me this day also from sin
and every evil, that all my doings and
life may please You. For into Your hands
I commend myself, my body and soul,
and all things. Let Your holy angel be
with me, that the evil foe may have no
power over me. Amen.

Song

Bible Challenge Questions

For Engage Openings, New Testament 1

Lesson 1

Who were the parents of John the Baptist?

Zechariah and Elizabeth

Lesson 2

Who told Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus? **The angel Gabriel**

Lesson 3

Who did Mary visit after receiving the good news from the angel Gabriel? **Elizabeth**

Lesson 4

What was Zechariah's job? (Remember, he was the father of John the Baptist.) **He was a priest.**

Lesson 5

What was the name of the man who was betrothed to Mary? **Joseph**

Lesson 6

Who told the shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem about Jesus' birth? **Angels!**

Lesson 7

Where did the Jewish people worship in New Testament times? **The temple in Jerusalem, sometimes called "Herod's Temple"**

Lesson 8

How many Wise Men visited baby Jesus? **The Bible does not say, but they brought three gifts.**

Lesson 9

Name the feast Jesus attended with his parents at the temple when He was twelve years old. **Passover**

Lesson 10

True or false: John said that he was not the Messiah, but was sent to prepare the way for His coming. **True; see John 3:28.**

Lesson 11

Name the two sacraments of the Lutheran Church. **Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

Lesson 12

True or false: Once you become a Christian, you are never tempted to do anything wrong again. **False. We are tempted every day! The Holy Spirit can help us overcome temptation. Saying Bible verses can often help us.**

Lesson 13

Name two of Jesus' twelve disciples. **Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaus (also called Judas the son of James), Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot**