

THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH

ZECHARIAH



CHRIST CONNECTION: God promised the King is coming. This promise came true with Jesus, who came to save us and be our King.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: This is our God. He saved us. Let's rejoice and be glad! Isaiah 25:9

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God sent special messengers called prophets. God talked to them through visions, or dreams.
- Zechariah the prophet had eight dreams. Each dream was a special message from God.
- God said, "Your king is coming. He will be a good king, riding on a donkey."

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: After God's people rebuilt the temple, God sent special messengers called prophets. God talked to prophets by showing them visions, or dreams. One night, God gave the prophet Zechariah (ZEK uh RIGH uh) eight special visions. Each vision showed something about God. In one, Zechariah saw a man ride a red horse around the earth. In another, he saw four horns. And in another, Zechariah saw a man measuring the city, but it was too big. Zechariah saw other things too—Joshua the priest, a golden lampstand, and a flying scroll. What strange visions! Everything Zechariah saw was a special message from God. God said, "Your king is coming. He will be a good king, riding on a donkey."



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Zechariah. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing to the tune of “I’ve Got the Joy”:

“This is our God. He saved us. Let’s rejoice and be glad.
Rejoice and be glad, rejoice and be glad!
This is our God. He saved us. Let’s rejoice and be glad.
Rejoice and be glad today!”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘This is our God. He saved us. Let’s rejoice and be glad.’ Who saved people? God! We can worship God by rejoicing and being glad today! ”

2 FOLLOW THE EIGHT

Draw and cut out a large number eight from a large piece of cardboard. Tape the number on the floor. Allow the babies to take turns crawling or scooting along the number path. For less mobile babies, hold babies in leaders’ arms as they walk the number eight. If desired, use wide painter’s tape to tape the number eight on the floor. Review the babies gospel gems as the babies follow the path.

SAY “ God sent special messengers called prophets. The prophet Zechariah had eight dreams. Each dream was a special message from God. ”

3 TOUCH AND FEEL

Gather pieces of fabric such as fur, cotton, leather, and silk. Lead the babies in exploring the different fabrics. Talk about which piece could feel like a donkey’s fur. Read the last gospel gem as the babies touch and feel the fabrics.

SAY “ God sent special messages to prophets. Every dream Zechariah had was a special message from God. God said, ‘Your king is coming. He will be a good king, riding on a donkey.’ ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Zechariah. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 DRAW A PICTURE

Provide each toddler with paper and crayons. Retell the Bible story. Instruct the toddlers to listen closely and draw a picture of one of the things Zechariah saw in his visions, or dreams.

SAY “What were the special messengers called? That’s right—prophets! The prophet Zechariah saw four horns, a man riding a red horse, and another man measuring a very big city. Zechariah also saw Joshua the priest, a golden lampstand, and a flying scroll. Everything Zechariah saw was a special message from God.”

3 SHOUT FOR THE KING

Guide the toddlers to form a line. Lead the toddlers in the following cheer, “God promised the King is coming!” Repeat the cheer and have the toddlers repeat after you. Encourage the toddlers to stomp their feet, clap their hands, and march around the room as they shout for King Jesus! Review the Bible story.

SAY “Our Christ Connection reminds us God promised the King is coming. Who came to save us and be our King? Yes, Jesus!”

4 PLAY “I SPOT A ...”

Print, cut apart, and tape the “Visions” printable images around the room. Instruct toddlers to find the following items around the room and to bring them to you: a red horse, four horns, a measuring tape, a golden lampstand, a scroll, a donkey, and a crown. Use these items as a way to review the Bible story.

SAY “How did God talk to prophets? Yes! God talked to the prophets through visions, or dreams. God gave Zechariah eight special visions. Did each vision show something about God? Yes! The visions were special messages from God.”

5 EXPLORE DAY AND NIGHT

Encourage the toddlers to think of things we see during the day and night. Count each item the toddlers name by drawing tally marks on paper or dry erase board. Eight daytime examples are a rainbow, sun, clouds, kite, trees, airplanes, buildings, people. Eight nighttime examples are moon, stars, owl, streetlights, fireworks, lightning, fireflies, planets.

SAY “How many visions did Zechariah have? Yes, eight! Zechariah saw eight visions, or dreams. Each vision was a special message from God. Who did God promised was coming? The King!”

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CHRIST CONNECTION: God promised the King is coming. This promise came true with Jesus, who came to save us and be our King.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: This is our God. He saved us. Let's rejoice and be glad!
Isaiah 25:9

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY "WHAT COMES NEXT?"

Write the numbers from 1–8 on **index cards**. Lay out the cards. Point to each number as you lead the toddlers in counting. After each number, ask which number comes next. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “ What number comes after seven? That’s right, eight comes next! How many visions did Zechariah have? Yes, eight! Each vision, or dream, showed something about God. ”

2 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing to the tune of “I’ve Got the Joy”:

“This is our God. He saved us. Let’s rejoice and be glad.
Rejoice and be glad, rejoice and be glad!
This is our God. He saved us. Let’s rejoice and be glad.
Rejoice and be glad today!”

SAY “ How many God’s are there? Yes, there is one true God. God sent His Son, Jesus, who came to save us and be our King. Let’s rejoice and be glad today! ”

3 POP UP TO THE BIBLE STORY

Choose volunteers to be “Zechariah” and “God.” Print and cut apart the **“Visions” printable**. Distribute images (one per toddler) of the eight visions. Instruct the toddlers to sit and listen to the Bible story. As you read the Bible story, instruct each toddler to pop up holding the image that matches the vision. Instruct toddlers who are God and Zechariah to do the same.

SAY “ God gave the prophet Zechariah eight special visions. Each vision showed something about God. Did God promise the King was coming? Yes! How did the promise come true? With Jesus! ”

4 SORT AND COUNT

Print and cut apart the **“Visions” printable** of each vision. Mix up the pictures. Lead the toddlers in sorting each picture in the order Zechariah had each vision. Read the Bible story for toddlers to check their order.

SAY “ How many visions did Zechariah have? Yes, eight! Each vision was a special message from God. Who did God promise was coming? The King! God promised the King was coming. This promise came true with Jesus, who came to save us and be our King. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s **Big Picture Card** to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, and gospel gems throughout the week.