



UNIT 17 | SESSION 4 | JANUARY 25-26, 2020

## 2s-3s Lesson

# Zechariah the Prophet

**Bible Passage:** Zechariah

**Story Point:** Zechariah said the Messiah is coming.

**Key Passage:** “I know the plans I have for you ... plans ... to give you a future and a hope”  
Jeremiah 29:11.

**Christ Connection:** God kept His promise to send Jesus.

**KID CONNECT:**  
**30 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:**  
**15 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:**  
**15 MINUTES**

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Zechariah was a priest who had been born in Babylon. He had returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel. At this time, the prophet Haggai was bringing God’s message to His people. The Judean people were struggling to finish rebuilding God’s temple. In fact, several years had passed without progress on the temple when God called Zechariah to prophesy to His people.

Zechariah set out to encourage the people. His message was twofold—first, look back and remember the past. Second, look forward and prepare for the future. God wanted His people to learn from the mistakes of their parents and grandparents who had ignored the prophets’ warnings.

The Book of Zechariah is organized into eight visions, four messages, and two oracles. The visions Zechariah saw each symbolized something God would do—rebuild Jerusalem, judge Israel’s enemies, and remove national sin. (See Zech. 1–6.) A couple of years later, God spoke to Zechariah again. This time, God spoke four messages in response to a question the people had about fasting (Zech. 7:3).

In the last six chapters, Zechariah changed the subject to the future of God’s kingdom. Chapters 9–12 are rich with Messianic prophecy; the words are quoted often in the New Testament. Compare Zechariah 9:9 with John 12:15, Zechariah 11:13 with Matthew 27:9, and Zechariah 12:10 with John 19:37.

As you teach preschoolers about Zechariah, emphasize God’s promise: “A king is coming.” Zechariah’s visions were significant to the reality of God’s people at that time, but a greater reality awaited. Zechariah pointed to Jesus, the coming deliverer who would be struck and pierced to take away sin. God would deal with His people’s enemies. He would cleanse His people. “They will call on my name, and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The Lord is our God’ (Zech. 13:9). Under the rule of King Jesus, our future is incredibly bright.

## KID CONNECT

### WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

### MAKE A CROWN

(2 strips of yellow construction paper per child, crayons, foam shapes, stickers, tape, and jewels per group)

Give each preschooler two strips of construction paper to decorate with crayons, foam shapes, stickers, and jewels. When a child finishes decorating, tape the two strips together and fit them to a child’s head to create a crown.

SAY • In today’s Bible story Zechariah said a special King is coming. God told Zechariah to tell the people to make gold and silver crowns and put them on Joshua the priest, but Joshua was not the special king God planned. Jesus is!

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

### WORSHIP

(VIDEO: JESUS LOVES ME, VIDEO: JEREMIAH 29:11)

Sing “Jesus Loves Me” and “Jeremiah 29:11.”

## INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

(Bible, Bookmark)

Place a bookmark at Zechariah 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is God's Word. The Bible is true and tells us about God. Today's Bible story is from the Book of Zechariah. Zechariah was a messenger from God who listened to God and told the people what He said.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

## TELL THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)

(no supplies needed)

Tell the Bible story using the script below.

Play a quick listening game. Give a direction for preschoolers to follow. Directions may include touch your ears, say the word *listen*, or jump once and then stop.

SAY • When God's people stopped rebuilding God's temple, God sent a man named Zechariah (ZEH uh RIGH uh) who told the people what God said.

God said, "Come back to Me, and I will come back to you." God wanted His people to remember Him and put Him first. "Do not be like your parents and grandparents and great-grandparents," God said. "I sent messengers to tell them to stop disobeying Me, but they did not listen."

One night, God gave Zechariah more special messages. God told Zechariah, "Make gold and silver crowns. Put them on Joshua the priest." Joshua looked like a king, but he was not the special king God planned. God said that the true special king would come one day and bring peace. There would be no more fighting.

"Be happy and shout for joy! Your King is coming," God said. "He is a good King. He is riding on a donkey."

## CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY • Zechariah saw that God was going to help His people and give them a special king. Jesus is the King who came on a donkey, just like Zechariah said. God kept His promise to send Jesus. We can trust in Jesus to forgive our sins.

## PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible, Key Passage Marker)

Place the key passage marker at Jeremiah 29:11. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Watch the key passage song for an example.

SAY • “I know the plans I have for you (*point to temples*) ... plans (*display arms in front*) to give you a future and a hope (*rainbow arms from left to right*)” Jeremiah 29:11. God knows you. He knew you before you were born. He knows what will happen to you today, tomorrow, and every day of your life. God has plans for you.

## PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

### SMALL GROUP

**Bible Passage:** Zechariah

**Story Point:** Zechariah said the Messiah is coming.

**Key Passage:** “I know the plans I have for you ... plans ... to give you a future and a hope” Jeremiah 29:11.

**Christ Connection:** God kept His promise to send Jesus.

## GO AND COME BACK

(no supplies needed)

When you say “go,” invite the preschoolers to spread out in the room and go as far away from you as they can. When you say, “Come back to me,” the children must hurry back to you. Retell the Bible story.

SAY • Zechariah told the people that God want them to come back to Him and love Him again. Zechariah said that God would send a special King. Jesus is the special King!

## PIN JESUS ON THE DONKEY

(1 “Donkey” printable per group, 1 “Jesus Riding on a Donkey” printable per group, 1 roll of tape per group)

Place rolled tape to the back of the picture. Turn a child three times and guide them to stick Jesus on the donkey. Let each child take a turn placing Jesus on the Donkey. Retell the Bible Story.

SAY • Zechariah said that God would send a special King. That king would ride on a donkey. Jesus is the special King God promised to send, and He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey!

## KEY PASSAGE WITH MOTIONS

Say the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying. "I know the plans I have for you (*point to temples*) ... plans (*display arms in front*) to give you a future and a hope (*rainbow arms from left to right*)" Jeremiah 29:11.

## GOSPEL GEMS

**(1 Bible Story Picture Poster per group, 1 Key Passage Card per group)**

Provide small Bibles for the preschoolers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card. Open your Bible to the Book of Zechariah. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray.

- Zechariah said that God would send a special King.
- Jesus is the special King God promised to send.
- One day, Jesus will live with His people forever.

## CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

**(Big Picture Card & Story Point coloring page (optional), 1 per child)**

Two & Three-year olds may color the optional Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool Christ Connection with their child this week.