



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

## 4s-5s 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.

**Big Picture Question:** How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? God speaks to us through 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—such as 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.

### FIND WHO HAS THE SCROLL

(1 small rolled piece of paper per group)

Invite children to sit in a circle on the floor. Show them how to hold their hands behind them. Instruct them to close their eyes. Tiptoe around the circle and put the tiny "scroll" in a child's hand. Invite the children to open their eyes, keeping their hands behind their backs. Allow children to take turns guessing who is holding the scroll. Repeat as time allows.

SAY • In today's Bible story, God gave the Zechariah eight visions. A vision is like a dream, but Zechariah was awake. God gave Zechariah a special message for His people. God was letting His people know what He was going to do. In one of those visions, Zechariah saw a flying scroll just like this! Listen to our Bible story to hear what else God showed Zechariah.

## 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.

## WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: ZECHARIAH THE PROPHET, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)

(no supplies needed)

Show the Bible story video.

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 • God wanted His people to rebuild the temple. They started building and then stopped. God sent prophets like Zechariah to give the people a message. He wanted the people to listen. Zechariah said the special King is coming.

## 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 wrong choices.

## 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 even born. He knows what will happen to you today, tomorrow, and every day of your life. God has plans for you!

## LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION

(CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)

SAY • Zechariah was one of the prophets who told the people what God said. We no longer need prophets to tell us what God says because we have Jesus. *How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? God speaks to us through Jesus.*

## 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.

**Big Picture Question:** How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? God speaks to us through Jesus.

## GO AND COME BACK

(1 roll of masking or painter’s tape per group)

Use masking or painter’s tape to make a triangle on the floor. Stand in the triangle. Direct the preschoolers to spread out outside of the triangle. When you say “Come back to me,” preschoolers should come back to you in the triangle. When you say “Spread out,” preschoolers should spread back out around the triangle. Play several rounds. Consider allowing children a turn at saying come back and spread out.

SAY • God told Zechariah to say to His people, “Come back to Me, and I will come back to you.” We all disobey God. We do things that make God sad, but when we do, we can always come back to God. We can tell Him we are sorry. He will always forgive us, not because we say we are sorry, but because of Jesus. Zechariah said the Messiah is coming. Jesus is the Messiah who died on the cross to rescue us from our wrong choices.

## 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!

## PASS THE MESSAGE (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY)

(1 piece of paper with "Be Happy!" written on it - per group)

(VIDEO: JEREMIAH 29:11)

Fold the paper in half. Form a circle. Replay the key passage song (optional) while children pass the paper around the circle. Periodically stop the music. The child holding the paper will open it and announce a reason why he is happy.

SAY • Zechariah said the Messiah is coming. He told God's people to be happy and shout for joy because the King is coming. Jesus is the King who came on a donkey, just like Zechariah said. God kept His promise to send Jesus.

## 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.

## REVIEW AND PRAYER

(1 Bible Story Picture Poster per group)

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

What was the name of the prophet in today's story who told people what God said?  
(*Zechariah*)

How did God send messages to Zechariah? (*in visions like dreams*)

What will the special King bring? (*peace*)

Who is the special King God promised to send? (*Jesus*)

*How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? God speaks to us through Jesus.*

SAY • Zechariah was a prophet who told people what God wanted them to hear. Zechariah said the Messiah is coming. Messiah means 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 wrong choices.

Ask your group for prayer requests and pray together. If you can, pray for your preschoolers by name. Encourage them to talk to God in prayer throughout the week.

## CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Preschool Activity Page, 1 per child)

Preschoolers may color the Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage them to do the activity page at home with their family this week.