



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

4th-5th 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”- this is the Lord’s declaration- “Plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope” Jeremiah 29:11.

Christ Connection: Because Zechariah’s prophecy came true in Jesus, we can have hope and forgiveness of sins when we trust in Jesus.

Big Picture Question: How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 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. God’s 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 speak 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 prophecy about the Messiah; 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 kids 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: INTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to think of someone they'd like to come visit them at home.

SAY • How exciting it is when someone special in our life comes for a visit! Just the news of his or her upcoming arrival is enough to keep us thinking about it for days. In today's Bible story, the prophet Zechariah had some great news: someone was coming. We'll find out more soon.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins.

LARGE GROUP GAME

(SFX: GAME INTRO MUSIC, SFX: RETRO MUSIC)

DONKEY, CROWN, KING

(No Supplies Needed)

Instruct kids to stand. Help them form groups of two. Lead them to play a version of *Rock, Paper, Scissors* called *Donkey, Crown, King*. Donkey "kicks" crown to win, crown "covers" king to win, and king "rides" donkey to win. Kids will stand back-to-back. A leader will say "one, two, three, shoot." On "shoot," all pairs of kids should turn around and do a motion to represent their choice of *Donkey, Crown, or King*. Whoever "wins" the round remains standing and finds a new partner.

The losing kid in each pair will sit out. If both kids in the pair pick the same object, they both sit out. Play continues until you have just one kid standing.

- *Donkey*—Kids hold two fingers on either side of their head, like donkey ears.
- *Crown*—Kids make circle shapes with their hands and rest their “crowns” on their own heads.
- *King*—Kids touch their chins as though stroking beards, deep in thought.

SAY • Zechariah said the Messiah is coming. But the Messiah wasn’t going to be a king the way the people expected a king to be. Zechariah said He would be humble and ride a donkey rather than a powerful warhorse. When Jesus first came, He was not like a conquering king. Jesus was humble and rode a donkey into Jerusalem. He came to serve us, not to be served.

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: THIS IS LIVING NOW, VIDEO: GOD IS ON THE MOVE)

SAY • Let’s worship God!

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(VIDEO: 25TH ANNIVERSARY HOPE HISTORY)

(No Supplies Needed)

Leader enters

SAY • Hey, guys! Wow, it’s great to see you all again. I have a question for you. How many of you have been here in KidCity for at least a year? How about 2 years? 3 years? Who has been here their whole life? Wow! That’s amazing. Did you know that Hope Community Church is 25 years old? Yep, it’s true. A LOT has changed in those 25 years but let’s watch this video montage of Hope’s history

Play 25th Anniversary Hope History video

That is some old school Hope but look at what God has done in those 25 years! It’s always good to take a break sometimes, look at the past, learn about our history and see God in all of that. That reminds me of our Bible story today. It’s about a prophet named Zechariah. He helped remind the Israelites of their history; how they had forsaken God and God had punished them by sending them into exile in Babylon. But Zechariah also encouraged God’s people by sharing with them the hope they had in the coming Messiah. Let’s do it!

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: ZECHARIAH THE PROPHET, CG: STORY POINT, CG: QUESTION 1, CG: QUESTION 2)

(Bible)

Show the Bible story video “Zechariah the Prophet.”

SAY • Have you ever felt something was impossible? God’s people felt that way about finishing the temple. They’d been away from their home for 70 years and now they were back in

Jerusalem with this huge construction project. It was really hard work, and their enemies didn't want them to succeed. Life had been hard for the people for a long time, so Zechariah's message of encouragement came at just the right time.

Zechariah reminded the Israelites of the sin that led to their exile in the first place. He also encouraged the people to not be like their ancestors who turned away from God. Zechariah said the Messiah is coming. God's people had been waiting for generations for the promised Savior to come.

In fact, God's promise to send the Messiah goes all the way back to the garden of Eden. As the Lord was sending Adam and Eve away after they sinned, He promised that one day a Savior would come to destroy the serpent. This was the same Savior that Zechariah said was coming. This message gave the people great hope. Have you ever been discouraged and needed to hear some good news? That's just what Zechariah did for the Israelites.

QUESTION 1: What does this story teach us about God?

SAY • Zechariah was faithful to tell God's people that He was going to help them and send them a King forever. Jesus was coming, and He is the perfect King and prophet.

QUESTION 2: How many visions did Zechariah see? What did they mean?

SAY • Zechariah saw eight visions. The horsemen meant the Lord would punish His enemies, the Lord's house would be rebuilt, and His cities would be blessed again. The four horns and craftsmen meant Israel's enemies would be defeated. The man with a measuring tape meant God would be a wall of protection around Jerusalem. Joshua the high priest meant God's people would rebuild the temple, and God would remove their guilt. The gold lampstand meant all the Lord's plans would happen because of His Spirit. The flying scroll meant there would be a curse on everyone who disobeyed God. The woman in a basket meant those who worshiped false gods would be taken away. The four chariots meant God's anger and wrath would be calmed.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

SAY • The people may have thought that the Savior was coming right away, but it would actually be another 400 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. When Jesus came to earth, He wasn't the kind of king the people expected. They thought the promised Messiah would be a strong political leader. Instead Jesus was humble.

God was going to help His people and give them a different kind of king. Jesus is the King who came and rode humbly on a donkey, just as Zechariah said. Because Zechariah's prophecy came true in Jesus, we can have hope and forgiveness of sins when we trust in Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible)

Show the key passage slide. Open the Bible and lead the kids to read Jeremiah 29:11 together.

SAY • Sometimes we need God to remind us of His promises. Our key passage reminds us that His plans are good. He keeps all of His promises, including the promise to bring us hope through our Savior Jesus.

BAPTISM ANNOUNCEMENT!

(CG: BAPTISM SLIDE)

SAY • Before we head to small groups, I want to let everyone know that this weekend we are having baptisms. Baptism is a celebration when a person shares that they have decided to follow Jesus. Do we have any kids in here getting baptized today? (*If so, celebrate with kids*) I want to encourage everyone to go outside and cheer on all our friends getting baptized today right after service.

JERSEY DAY ANNOUNCEMENT!

Before we head to Small Group, I have a quick announcement. Next Sunday is the Super Bowl, which, for a lot of people, is a big deal. There are parties and food and hilarious commercials. So, to help keep the party going—or rather, to kick it off—we’re going to have Jersey Day in KidCity next weekend!

(CG: JERSEY WEEKEND SLIDE)

It doesn’t matter what jersey you wear; it can be soccer, basketball, baseball, softball...anything that is about team sports. And if you don’t have a jersey, just put on some fun team colors. Of course, all of this is optional. We just want to have a fun day that gets us in the mood for chips and dip and yelling at a TV screen. I look forward to seeing what you wear next weekend!

PRAY AND DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

Bible Passage: Zechariah

Story Point: Zechariah said the Messiah is coming.

Key Passage: “I know the plans I have for you”- this is the Lord’s declaration- “Plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope” Jeremiah 29:11.

Christ Connection: Because Zechariah’s prophecy came true in Jesus, we can have hope and forgiveness of sins when we trust in Jesus.

Big Picture Question: How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

DISCUSSION

(Bibles)

SAY • God’s plan all along was to bring Jesus into the world to rescue sinners. Zechariah said the Messiah is coming. God planned for Jesus to reign forever. One day, Jesus is coming back again and those who believe in Him will live with Him forever. Jesus is worthy of our praise.

- Why do you think God waited so long to send Jesus?
- How could waiting for something be better than getting it right away?

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Zechariah 9. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Zechariah 9:9. Remind kids that Zechariah said the Messiah is coming. If you were expecting a king to arrive, what would you look for? [Allow kids to respond.] We may have certain ideas about how a king should arrive, but this king—the promised Messiah—was not like other kings. King Jesus would come on a donkey, and He would reign forever.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Zechariah 9:9 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. What was the main message Zachariah came to deliver?

Guide kids to recall that Zachariah said the Messiah is coming. Jesus was coming to be the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and Prince of Peace. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 9:6.)

2. Describe a time when you tried to do the right things when everyone around you was doing the wrong?

Invite kids to share. Point out that Zechariah had some stern messages for those who disobeyed God. God told the people to return to Him. God calls us today to come near to Him and turn away from sin. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read James. 4:8.)

3. How can we be encouraged to obey God even when it’s difficult?

Affirm that obeying God may not always be the popular choice, but it is always the right choice. God must punish sin. We show we love God when we obey His commands. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 15:14.)

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

(Bibles, bean bag, large sheet of paper)

Before the session, write all the words and phrases from the key passage in random order on a large piece of paper. Position the poster board on the floor. Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Jeremiah 29:11. Lead the kids to read the key passage together.

Invite kids to take turns tossing a beanbag onto the words of the key passage in order. When a player's beanbag lands on the first word, the entire class will say that word aloud. When a player lands on the next word, kids will start at the beginning and say each word in order up to the current word. Continue word by word until kids say the entire key passage.

CATEGORIES GAME

(paper, pens, timer)

Form small groups of kids and give each group a piece of paper and a pen. Invite kids to play a category game. Call out a category (food, animals, states, and so on). Challenge kids to list as many items from the category as they can in 30 seconds. Play several rounds. The final category should be "things that will happen in the future."

SAY • Which category was the hardest? Do you know what will happen in the future? Why or why not?

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

(Journal Page - 1 per kid, pencils)

Ask the kids the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

If time allows, have kids complete the Journal Page provided with this session.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Older Kids Activity Page, 1 per kid)

Hand each 4th-5th grade kid an Older Kids Activity Page and encourage them to do it at home with their family this week.

OPTIONAL TAKE HOME:

(Preteen Learner Guide Option)

For 5th Graders that would like some additional God Time this week.

BAPTISM

(Baptism Discussion Guide, Baptism stickers)

This weekend, Hope is celebrating baptisms. If you need to get out early or come late in order to be a part of or see the baptisms happening today, talk with your coach and other leaders in your room about how your group can be covered. Baptism is a once-in-someone's-lifetime experience, and we want to do everything we can to be sure you don't miss it.

Also, don't forget to talk with your group about baptism – celebrate those who are being baptized, and talk about how everyone can celebrate their relationship with Jesus by being baptized themselves. Use the Small Group Baptism Discussion page for questions, talking points, and ideas on sparking the conversation.