



UNIT 19 | SESSION 2 | MARCH 7-8, 2020

4s-5s Lesson

John Was Born

Bible Passage: Luke 1

Story Point: John was born to get people ready for Jesus.

Key Passage: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

Christ Connection: God kept his promise to send Jesus.

KID CONNECT:
30 MINUTES

LARGE GROUP:
15 MINUTES

SMALL GROUP:
15 MINUTES

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Some of the last words of the Lord recorded in the Old Testament are found in Malachi 4: “Look, I am going to send you the prophet Elijah ... he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers” (v. 5-6). The Book of Malachi was written more than 400 years before Jesus was born. For centuries, God’s people did not hear from Him. They were back in their homeland but were subject to other ruling nations. Eventually, the Romans took over.

The Roman emperor installed Herod as a leader over Judea and surrounding regions such as Samaria and Galilee. To gain the people’s favor, King Herod replaced Zerubbabel’s temple in Jerusalem with a beautiful marble temple constructed by 10,000 workers. This was the temple in which Zechariah, a priest from the family of Abijah, served the Lord. This was the temple in which God, through the angel Gabriel, broke His silence after so many years.

Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were both “righteous in God’s sight” (Luke 1:6), living by faith in God’s promise to send a Messiah. Like Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 18, they were getting along in years and did not have any children. Elizabeth’s barrenness was a point of disgrace for her among the community (Luke 1:25) and God graciously answered this couple’s prayers.

An angel appeared to Zechariah in the temple sanctuary and delivered good news: “Your prayer

has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son.” Echoing Malachi’s prophecy, the angel declared this son would “turn the hearts of fathers to their children” (Luke 1:17).

For his doubting, Zechariah was rendered mute until the promise came to pass. When John was born, Zechariah could speak again. He praised God and prophesied. John was born to prepare the way for Jesus. John would point people to Jesus, the Savior God promised.

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.

PREPARE THE WAY

(Construction Paper or Dots, 15-20 sheets per class)

Give preschoolers a sheet of construction paper. Ask them to work together to create a path on the floor for people to follow. Help children put their papers near each other and compliment their attempts to prepare a path for other people. When children have prepared the path, walk on it. Invite friends to join you. Challenge a child to walk backwards or hop on one foot along the path.

SAY • You got the path ready for me to walk on. John was born to get people ready for Jesus. Zechariah praised God because he knew that John would help tell people about Jesus!

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

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

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: OH, HAPPY DAY, VIDEO: JESUS LOVES ME)

Sing “Oh, Happy Day” and “Jesus Loves Me.”

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

(Baby Doll)

Enter holding the baby doll. Tip Toe to show you're trying to be quiet.

SAY • *whispering* Hi kids! How are you? Look what I have with me today. What is this? Yes, it's a baby. But he is about to fall asleep, so we need to be very quiet. I have an idea. Let's play the quiet game for 30 seconds and see who can be the quietest one of all. Then maybe the baby will fall asleep.

Play the countdown and lead preschoolers to try and not make any noise until the timer goes off.

SAY • Great job being so quiet. I think that he has definitely fallen asleep. In today's Bible story, which is in the New Testament book of Luke, God sent an angel to tell a man named Zechariah that he and his wife, Elizabeth, would also have a - what do you think? Yep - a baby boy! Zechariah did not believe the angel's words, so God made Zechariah unable to talk until his son was born. Listen to the Bible story to hear the special plan God had for Zechariah and Elizabeth's baby.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: JOHN WAS BORN, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)

Show the Bible story video.

SAY • God gave Zechariah and Elizabeth a son. Even better, their son would get people ready for the most important person to ever be born, Jesus. John was born to get people ready for Jesus.

CHRIST CONNECTION

(CG: CHRIST CONNECTION)

SAY • The time had come. God was going to bring His light into the dark world. Peace was coming for God's people. God kept His promise to send Jesus. People would praise God for keeping His promise.

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible, Key Passage Marker)

Place the key passage marker at John 1:1. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying.

"In the beginning was the Word, (*open hands like a book*) and the Word was with God, (*lift book up over head*) and the Word was God. (*point up*)" John 1:1 (*open hands like a book*).

SAY • Jesus is the Word. Jesus is God the Son. Jesus has been with God since the beginning—before anything was made. John was born to get people ready for Jesus. God planned to send Jesus from the very beginning, but now the time had almost come.

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Passage: Luke 1

Story Point: John was born to get people ready for Jesus.

Key Passage: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

Christ Connection: God kept his promise to send Jesus.

PAINT LETTERS

(Sealed Plastic Bag, 2 per group, Paint, Allergy Alert)

Invite children to sit at a table. Place bags of paint in front of preschoolers. Suggest children practice writing the first letter of their name in the paint.

SAY • Zechariah could not talk until John was born because he did not believe the angel's words. The Bible says Zechariah wrote John's name and then he was able to talk again. Zechariah praised God! John was born to get people ready for Jesus. People would praise God for keeping His promise to send Jesus.

LISTEN FOR YOUR NAME

(No Supplies Needed)

Form a circle on the floor. Tell preschoolers when they hear their name, they must jump up and shout “Praise God!” Play until each child's name is called. Play again giving another direction for when children hear their names.

SAY • Zechariah and Elizabeth named their son John. When John was born, Zechariah could talk again, and he praised God! John was born to get people ready for Jesus. People would praise God for keeping His promise to send Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE WITH MOTIONS

Say the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying. “In the beginning was the Word, (*open hands like a book*) and the Word was with God, (*lift book up over head*) and the Word was God. (*point up*)” John 1:1 (*open hands like a book*).

REVIEW

(Bible Story Picture, 1 per group)

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

Who was born to get people ready for Jesus? (*John was born to get people ready for Jesus.*)

What happened to Zechariah because he did not believe the angel's words at first? (*He was not able to talk until John was born.*)

What did Zechariah do once he could speak again? (*He praised God.*)
What is something you can praise God for? (*allow responses*)

SAY • When Zechariah didn't believe the angel's words at first, he was not able to speak until John was born. Once John was born, Zechariah was able to talk and praised God. People would praise God for keeping His promise to send Jesus. God always keeps His promises.

PRAYER

Ask children if they have anything they would like to pray for.

SAY • God, thank you for keeping your promise to send Jesus. Help us to trust you to keep all your promises to us. We love you! Amen.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Preschool Activity Page, 1 per child, Crayons)

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.