

We'd love your feedback as you test out these lessons. Email us at [bethesda@seejesus.net](mailto:bethesda@seejesus.net).

# Lesson 1

## The Drumroll Begins...

1. Isaiah 9:6 NIV; Isaiah 53:5NIRV; Luke 1:31; John 3:16
2. Flip chart
3. The History of the Bible, Animated | National Geographic National Geographic  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AuDhWiO2D4> (stop at 1:09)
4. Book Minute: The Great Isaiah Scroll Museum of the Bible  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkQXgSuFrzU>
5. Paper scroll with Isaiah 9:6 on it (This is the prop.)



6. Clay Jar (Large Plastic Container that fits the scroll)
7. Rock (Bean bag or Pair of socks rolled in a ball)
8. Cave- (Make an area look like a cave. You can use dark sheets over a table and the cave is under the table)
9. Puppet of Isaiah ( Brown Bag )
10. Jesus Rescues Us| God's Story Crossroads Kids' Club  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDL3Eq5YWjA>
11. Our Waiting/ God Answering "Beyond all we can imagine" chart

*Love:* God so loved the whole world that he gave us his only son...Jesus.

*Faith:* Waiting with faith

*Jesus:* The long awaited, promised baby!

*Kim's World:* Kim lives in excitement for the next event! Halloween begins the "High Holy Days". What follows Halloween? Thanksgiving. Christmas Tea. Kim's b-day, Christmas, and "F-L".

*Tyleyia's Pick:*

## **1. Start the Story**

***Summing it up: Everything God says will happen...happens!***

**Q. Let's make a list of things you are excited about and waiting for.**

*Start with yourself to give the gang an example*

*Make a list on the flipchart.*

Well I know my daughter Kim gets very excited about her trips to Disney. She talks about going to Disney like a year before we go! She talks about it every day! Where she wants to eat. Who she wants to see. Which rides she wants to go on. Which park she enjoys the most. The list goes on and on.

**Q. Did you know that God gets excited too? (Yes, No)**

He gets even more excited than Kim gets over Disney and about all the things you get excited over.

God was so excited about something that he talked about it for 700 years before the exciting thing happened! Now that's a LONG time to talk about something you're excited about! It is also a long time to wait for it to happen!

**Q. Do you know what God was charged up about? (Not sure)**

God was excited to give us a gift...an amazing gift! See if you can discover what this gift is.

1. Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AuDhWiO2D4> The History of the Bible, Animated | National Geographic National Geographic

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkOXgSuFrzU> Book Minute: The Great Isaiah Scroll Museum of the Bible

2. Role play the story.

*For costumes, use different colored scarves or shawls worn over the head or around the shoulders.*

*Person 1: Shepherd*

*Person 2: Shepherd*

*Person 3: Shepherd*

*Act out the shepherds looking after their goats. While doing their job they threw a rock into a cave and heard a crashing sound. Following the sound, the shepherds discovered scrolls that were hidden in this cave in large jars.*

3. Draw out the scene as you retell the story in your own words. Below is a completed sample drawing: N/A

**Q. What did the shepherd find in the broken pot? (A scroll)**

**Yes! These are the words that God told Isaiah to tell the people. And the words were so important that Isaiah wrote them down in that scroll:**

**The man who wrote this scroll had a job called ‘prophet’. Prophets were people who God spoke through.**

**Use Puppet:** You know how you can make a puppet talk? Well, that’s a little bit how God would talk through people. When God had something to say, he would say it through the prophet. So God spoke through a prophet named Isaiah.

**Let’s read the verse from the letter that was written on the scroll.**

**Have someone read from the scroll. Prop**

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given...

And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 53:5

<sup>5</sup> But the servant was pierced because we had sinned.

He was crushed because we had done what was evil.

He was punished to make us whole again.

His wounds have healed us.

Q. So what did God tell Isaiah? (*A child is born*)

*Refer to Isaiah 9:6 if they don't get it.*

Yes! A Child was going to be born!

Q. Was it a boy or girl? (boy)

Q. What were people going to call this boy? (Wonderful Teacher, Mighty God,  
Forever Father, Prince of Peace)

That's a lot of names for a baby!

Isaiah also wrote:

He was punished to make us whole again.

His wounds have healed us.

Q. What do you think this means? (He was going to die for us)

Yes. This baby was going to be punished when he grew up...he would have wounds in his hands and feet. Because this person suffered for us, he would make a way that we would be healed forever!

Q. Where will be healed forever? (Heaven!)

YES!!!!

Q. There was another name for this special baby boy. Do you know his name?

*Have someone read Luke 1:31*

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

Well this baby is going to be special! His name is going to be Jesus and God is his father! And God is forever excited about his son's birth. Actually Jesus' birthday is so special that we still celebrate it 2,000 years later!

*\*Our Waiting/ God Answering "Beyond all we can imagine" chart*

*Add to chart:*

<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Waiting for...</i>	<i>What God does...</i>
<b><i>1. Isaiah and the Jewish people</i></b>	<b><i>A baby, the Messiah, to be born.</i></b>	<b><i>He waits 700 years till the perfect time for this baby to be born.</i></b>
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

*Isaiah, the prophet, prayed that God would save the Jewish people/ God was going to send the Messiah, Jesus, to save us **all** from every wrong thing we've done and thought. And we would be saved forever!*

Q. Tell me how we celebrate this baby's birthday every year? (Christmas!)

Yes.

Q. What do we do to celebrate Christmas? (give presents)

We sure do! But there is no greater gift than the gift God gave us. In the Bible it says:

*Have someone read John 3:16*

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.

Q. What did God give us? (His Son)

*Hint: What was God excited about?*

Yes! God gave us his son...Jesus! When you give a great gift, you have a reason you are giving it to a certain person...right?

Well God has a really important reason for giving us his son, and it is the second half of John 3:16:

Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDL3Eq5YWjA> Jesus Rescues Us|  
God's Story Crossroads Kids' Club

## **2. What about me?**

**Summing it up:** *Have you ever gotten ready for a baby to come into your family?*

Q. Have you ever become a sister or brother or aunt or uncle to a new baby? (Yes! No.)

Q. How excited was your family waiting for the baby to come? (Super!)

Q. Tell me some of the ways your family got ready for the baby? (We gave a shower. We told our friends. I bought the baby a toy.)

Q. Do you think God is going to get people ready for his special son, Jesus? (Yes)

Wait till you hear about the way God got lots of different people ready to celebrate a baby that changed the world!

## **3. Close in Prayer**

God, thank you for giving us the very, very best gift anyone could ever give us  
Jesus! Thank you!

# Lesson 2

## “Make Way for the King”

### Materials:

1. Luke 1:5-25; 62-63,68-69,72,76-78, Psalm 27:14, Psalm 84:11
2. Flip chart
3. **Props:**
  - Paper Scroll with Isaiah 9:6 (Last week)
  - Small white board with “His name is John” written on it (This week)
4. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zb9OUWE\\_iE&t=8s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zb9OUWE_iE&t=8s) Bible Stories for Kids: Birth of John the Baptist
5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=un9P-cdwS9E> DISNEY SING-ALONGS | Prince Ali - Aladdin Lyric Video | Official Disney UK
6. Drawing of Solomon’s Temple
7. Download a picture of Solomon’s Temple
8. “Beyond All We Can Imagine” chart

### Goals:

*Love:* God heard and answered Elizabeth and Zechariah’s prayers.

*Faith:* Jesus, please give us the faith to believe every one of your words...and every word will prove true. Help us wait in faith.

*Jesus:* “Make way for the King!!!” That was John’s job, to announce “Make way for the King of Kings...Jesus!!!”

*Kim’s World:* Kim knows what it is like to be unable to speak. Yes, now she uses a device to get her thoughts out ...but it is hard, and it takes longer to push all the buttons to get her words out. It would be so much easier if she could use her “God voice” ...but one day that “God voice” will shout praises to the King of Kings for how good he has been to her! I can’t wait to hear that!!!!

## **1. Review the Story**

**Summing it up:** God told Isaiah, a prophet, that a special child, a special baby would be born.

Q. Do you remember what we talked about last week? (The man with the scroll.)

Yes! We talked about a scroll.

*Hold up the scroll, **the prop**, from last week.*

Q. Remember what a scroll was? (Like a letter rolled up.)

Yes! It was a letter.

Q. So was this letter we talked about, was it written a short time ago or a long time ago? (Really long time ago.)

Yes! Like 700 years before the baby was born! Q. Do you remember the name of the man who wrote this letter? (Isaiah)

Very good...because his name is a hard one to remember!

Q. Now who told Isaiah what words to write down in the letter? (God!)

*Hint: Use only if they don't get the answer. Remember the puppet skit?*

That's right! God told Isaiah exactly what to write down...and he did!

Q. Do you remember anything special about how this letter, this scroll, was found? (It was in a jar that was broken. It was hidden in rocks. Shepherds hit the jar with a slingshot and the jar broke!)

That's right. God told Isaiah what to write down in a scroll, 700 years before the baby was born! Then God had a person hide the scroll in a jar, in a cave, so it would be saved. So now that the scroll has been found, lots and lots of people can read this letter for many, many years.

Q. What did the letter say? (A child is going to be born.)

Yes! Your right!

*Read Isaiah 9:6 from the scroll.*



The letter talked about someone being born. A baby.

Yes. God told his special friends, the Jewish people, that a baby was going to be born!

Q. Was this baby going to be born soon or would the Jewish people have to wait? (Wait!)

They sure did! They waited a long time! Hundreds of years. Now that is a long time to wait. Many waited and waited for this baby to come.

*Look at the 'More than imagined' chart from last week.*

And today we are going to talk about another family who waited...

## **2. Experience the Story**

**Summing it up:** *We will use all of our senses to experience the story in a variety of ways.*

*Read Luke 1:5-25*

*Some parts of verses have been removed for the gang, to make it shorter...*

*Students who are comfortable reading aloud may each read one colored section until they finish the passage. Adapt for slower readers by assisting them and/or giving them shorter portions to read. Some students may feel more comfortable using a pointer while another student reads.*

5. There was a priest named Zechariah. His wife was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>Both of them did what was right in the sight of God. They obeyed all the Lord's commands and rules faithfully. <sup>7</sup>But they had no children, because Elizabeth was not able to have any. And they were both very old.

<sup>8</sup>One day Zechariah was serving as a priest in God's temple. <sup>9</sup>He happened to be chosen to go into the temple of the Lord. There he was supposed to burn incense. <sup>10</sup>All who had gathered to worship were praying outside.

<sup>11</sup>Then an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah. The angel was standing at the right side of the incense altar. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was amazed and terrified. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer

has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will have a child. It will be a boy, and you must call him John. <sup>14</sup> He will be a joy and delight to you. His birth will make many people very glad. <sup>15</sup> He will be important in the sight of the Lord. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. <sup>16</sup> He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> And he will prepare the way for the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is old too.”

<sup>19</sup> The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I serve God. I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup> And now you will have to be silent. You will not be able to speak until after John is born. That’s because you did not believe my words. They will come true at the time God has chosen.”

<sup>21</sup> During that time, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the temple. They wondered why he stayed there so long. <sup>22</sup> When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple. They knew this because he kept gesturing to them. He still could not speak.

<sup>23</sup> When his time of service was over, he returned home. <sup>24</sup> After that, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. She stayed at home for five months. <sup>25</sup> “The Lord has done this for me,” she said.

Reinforce the story using the following three methods:

1. *Role play the story.*

*For costumes, use different colored scarves or shawls worn over the head or around the shoulders.*

*Person 1: Zechariah*

*Person 2: Elizabeth*

*Person (or should I say angel 😊) : Gabriel.*

*Person 4: Man (person in the temple)*

*Person 5: Man (person in the temple)*

*Person 6: Woman (person in the temple)*

*Person 7: Woman (person in the temple)*

2. Draw out the scene as you retell the story in your own words. Below is a completed sample drawing: 2. Draw out the scene as you retell the story in your own words. Below is a completed sample drawing:





3. Watch [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zb9OUWE\\_iE&t=8s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zb9OUWE_iE&t=8s) Bible Stories for Kids: Birth of John the Baptist

### 3. Understand the Story

**Summing it up:** God's announcement to Zechariah and Elizabeth's prayer...a baby that will become God's messenger to "Make Way for the King!"

**Q. What did Zechariah and Elizabeth not have?** (Children)

*Hint: Use this if the gang doesn't have the answer to above question. Luke 1:7*

**That's right.**

Q. Tell me why it was going to be hard for Elizabeth and Zechariah to have a baby? (They were old!)

They sure were...like they were as old as your grandparents! Yikes!

Q. Do you think Elizabeth and Zechariah prayed that God would give them a baby?

*Read Luke 1:13*

They prayed for years and years and years to have a baby. They waited. And waited. And watched so many babies being born in their neighborhood, but they never had a baby...until?

Q. What was Zechariah's job?

*Read Luke 1:8*

Zechariah was a priest.

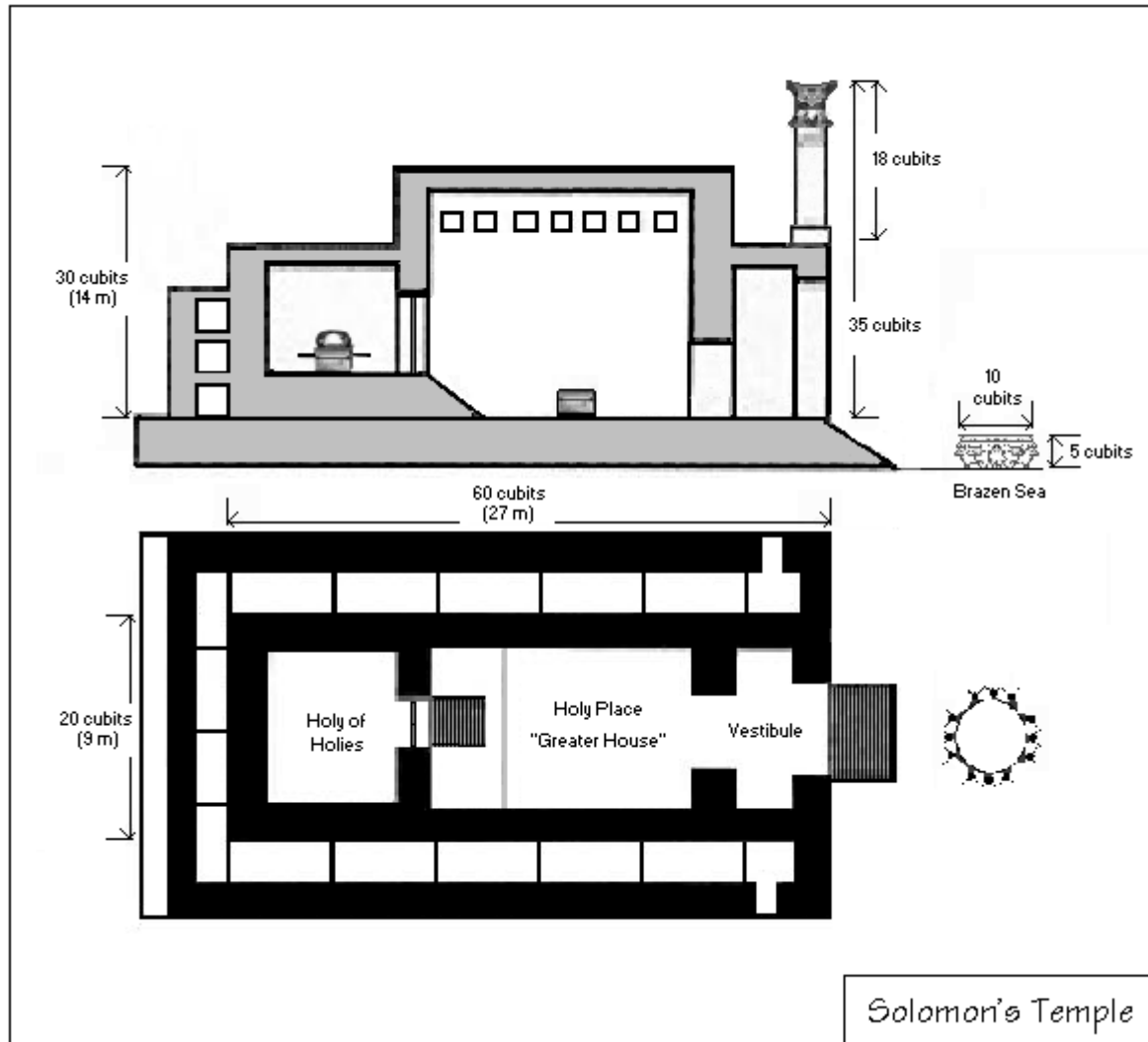
Q. Tell me what a priest is? (Like a pastor)

Yes. A priest is like a Jewish pastor.

Q. Where do our pastors work? (At church)

That's right. And priests worked at the temple. Here's a picture of a temple. And once a year a priest would go into a very special room called the Holy of Holies.

*Show diagram of temple, highlighting the holy of holies. Highlight the holy of holies with a bright marker!*



Q. When Zechariah was in the Holy of Holies, who showed up? (An angel. Gabriel.)

Yes!

Q. How would you feel if you saw an angel? (Scared.)

Me too! I think I would faint!

Q. How did Zechariah feel? (Amazed and Terrified)

*Hint...reread this if the gang can't answer: Luke 1:12*

Q. When angels show up in the Bible, what do they say lots of times? (“Don’t be afraid.”)

*Hint: reread this if the gang can't answer Luke 1:13*

Yes. The angel didn't want Zechariah to be scared.

Q. What did the angel tell Zechariah after he told him not to be afraid? (He and his wife were going to have a baby!)

*Hint...reread this if the gang can't answer: Luke 1:13*

Yes!!! The baby that they had waited and prayed for years and decades!

Q. What will the babies name be? (John)

God says that he will never hold back anything that is good.

Psalm 84:11

God doesn't hold back anything good

from those whose lives are without blame.

How wonderful for us to think about. When we wait and keep praying, that God will only do good to us.

Q. Now John, Elizabeth and Zechariah's baby, was going to have a special job to do. What is the job? (He will prepare the way for the Lord)

*Hint...reread this if the gang can't answer: Luke 1:17*

Yes! John is going to 'make way' for the Lord.

Q. Who do you think the Lord is? (Answers vary. Jesus. I'm not sure.)

As the weeks go on you will discover who 'the Lord' is!

Let's look at this movie clip of Aladdin making way for Prince Ali...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=un9P-cdwS9E> DISNEY SING-ALONGS | Prince Ali - Aladdin Lyric Video | Official Disney UK

Q. Do you think John is going to make way for the Lord like this? (Answers are funny!)

God is usually much quieter than Disney ☺

John will tell people to "Make Way for the Lord...The Lord is coming!"

Q. Did Zechariah believe what Gabriel said? (No.)

*Read Luke 1:20*

Q. So what happened to Zechariah? (He couldn't speak.)

Yup. He didn't talk for 9 months. That's a long time. Zechariah had to pray and wait to talk again. And if he had something to say he had to write it down!

So, Elizabeth and Zechariah's baby was born, and they were at the temple. It was time to name him. Gabriel, the angel, told Zechariah what to name the baby.

Q. What is his name supposed to be? (John)

*Read Luke 1:62-63*

Yes.

Q. How did Zechariah tell the priest what to name him? (He had to write it out)

Show *prop* (Small white board with "His name is John" written on it)

That's right.

Q. What happened to Zechariah as soon as the leaders of the temple read what the babies name was going to be? (He was able to speak again!)

He sure was!

Q. What do you think were some of the things he said? (He told people how hard it was not to talk! He told people about the angel.)

I bet Zechariah had a LOT to talk about!

Q. If you were unable to talk and then all of a sudden, your words came out of you... do you think they would be important words? (Yes!)

Zechariah's words gushed out of him like water from a fire hydrant! And these are some of the words that came out.

*Have someone from the gang read this:*

<sup>68</sup> "Give praise to the Lord,

<sup>69</sup> He has acted with great power and has saved us.

<sup>72</sup> He has been kind to our people of long ago.

He has remembered his holy covenant.

<sup>76</sup> "And you, John, will go ahead of the Lord to prepare the way for him.

<sup>77</sup> You will tell people how they can be saved.

You will tell them that their sins can be forgiven.

<sup>78</sup> All of that will happen because our God is tender and caring.



#### **4. What about me?**

***Summing it up: When you are waiting for something special, what are you focusing on...yourself or God?***

All during the time Zechariah was quiet, he had a lot of time to think.

Q. What do you think he thought about? (God)

Hint...reread this if the gang can't answer: Luke 68-78

Yes! And how great God is!!!

Q. Have you noticed that when you ask God for something he usually has you wait until he answers?

Give time for the students to answer.

“Beyond all we can imagine” chart.

Add to the chart:

Person	Waiting for...	What God does...
Isaiah/Jewish people	<i>A baby, the Messiah, to be born</i>	<i>He waits 700 years till the perfect time for this baby to be born.</i>
<b><i>Zechariah and Elizabeth</i></b>	<b><i>A baby</i></b>	<b><i>He gives them a child that God will use to announce the arrival of the Lord</i></b>

Q. While we wait for God to answer our prayers what do we usually think of?

Write down responses.

Example:

\*I get afraid he won't do what I ask.

\*I stop praying

\*I worry

\*I think about myself and not God

Waiting...it's hard to do. Here is a verse that a man named King David wrote:

Psalm 27:14

Wait for the LORD.

Be strong and don't lose hope.

Wait for the LORD.

Q. Who here is asking God to do something? (Me. Me. Me.)

I am too.

Q. But as we pray, what do we need to do? (Wait)

Yes... I know I need Jesus to help me wait for God to do his will and trust him to do what is the very best for me and those I am praying for.

## **5. Close in Prayer**

Jesus, I need you to help my heart be quiet as I wait for you to answer my prayers. Please help me remember how much you love me and care about all the things I care about. I love you. Amen.

# Lesson 3

## Noticed by God!

1. Luke 1:26-38 (TLB)
2. Flip chart
3. Figure of Mary...from a nativity set (This is the prop.)
4. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KT\\_cHi8QJMw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KT_cHi8QJMw) Gabriel visits Mary
5. Our Waiting/ God Answering “Beyond all we can imagine” chart

*Love:* God knew how much Mary loved him...God knew that she would be able to do what he asked her to do...to be Jesus’ mother.

*Faith:* Mary believed, because of her astounding faith, that she would conceive and bear God’s only son Jesus.

*Jesus:* Jesus would call God, his father, Abba...which is Hebrew for daddy. And he would call Mary ‘mother’.

*Kim’s World:* I love how Kim and ‘The gang’ simply and deeply believe the words from the Bible... “the Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God.” The gang has no questions. They believe the impossible. I love that Lord! Help me be the same!

### **1. Review the Story**

**Summing it up:** *Zechariah and Elizabeth were going to have a baby. And his name was to be called John.*

Q. Does anybody remember last week’s lesson? (Yes! Zechariah and Elizabeth were going to have a baby!)

They were!

Q. What was miraculous about this? (They were old.)

Yupper. They were way past the time people have children.

Q. But did that matter to God? (No)

God does the impossible! And Elizabeth was going to have a baby!

Q. Had Zechariah and Elizabeth prayed for a baby? (Yes...for a long time.)

And not only were they going to have a baby boy, but a special baby boy.

*Refer to the Our Waiting/ God Answering Chart*

Q. What was his name to be? (John)

Yes. John.

Q What was John's special job he was going to do? (He was going to say "Make Way for the King!")

He sure was.

Q. Who was the king he was going to be asking people to "Make Way" for? (Jesus)

Yes! Well this week we are looking at another impossible thing God does that will change the world.

## **2. Experience the Story**

### **Summing it up:**

Read Luke 1:26-38

Watch . [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KT\\_cHi8QJMw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KT_cHi8QJMw) Gabriel visits Mary

Role play the story.

Person 1 (or should I say angel 😊 ) : Gabriel

Person 2: Mary

Person 3: Villager

Person 4: Villager

2. Draw out the scene as you retell the story in your own words. Below is a completed sample drawing:



### 3. Understand the Story

**Summing it up: God chose Mary to be the mother of his child, Jesus**

Mary must have been an amazing girl. She was probably around 14 years old. Now way back when all of this happened girls that were around 14 did get married and have children. Mary would have been like you and me. She didn't glow in a crowd. She didn't float around. She wasn't dressed in sparkling clothes...I don't think she had nail polish on either her toes or fingers! But something was VERY special about her. And that was her heart!

Q. Who sees our heart? (God. Jesus.)

Yes! Let's read 1 Chronicles 28:9

<sup>9</sup>The LORD looks deep down inside every heart. He understands every desire and every thought.

Q. What do think God liked about Mary's heart? (That she loved him?)

Yes. I think Mary had a HUGE love for God and wanted to always do what pleased him!

Q. So who visited Mary with a special message? (The angel)

Yes! Gabriel! The same angel who showed up when Zechariah was in the temple! Gabriel is the angel God sends to give us glorious messages!

Q. What did Gabriel tell Mary?

*Hint: Read 1:28 (TLB)*

Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Congratulations, favored lady! The Lord is with you!"

Yes. Gabriel said the Lord says, Congratulations, favored lady! The Lord is with you!

Q. How did this make Mary feel?

*Hint: Read 1:29*

*Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.*

Yes. Mary thought what kind of a greeting it this!

Q. Once again, how do you think Mary feel? (Scared! Mixed up.)

Yes! Just like Zechariah!

Q. And what did Gabriel say to Mary when he saw she was scared? (Don't be afraid!)

Yes. And he also said "God has decided to wonderfully bless you!"

And then Gabriel said something no one had heard before or since!

Q. What was the news Gabriel told her!? (She was going to become pregnant and have a boy and name him Jesus!)

Yes!

Q. Let's write down all the things Gabriel said Jesus would do?

*Write answers on flip chart*

- Jesus will be very great
- Jesus will be called the Son of God
- God will make him a king
- He will rule forever over his people
- His kingdom will never end

WOW! This is some baby. LIKE NO OTHER BABY! And God chose Mary to be the mom. God chose her not because of her outside what people saw; but because of her heart! Oh how she loved and knew God!

Q. So what was Mary's response to Gabriel? (How is this going to happen?)

*Hint: Read 1:34*

Now Mary must have been really confused. Mary knew you needed a man and a woman to conceive, or make, a baby. Mary was going to be the mom, but who would be the father.

This is what is so incredible amazing! God was Jesus' father. "The power of the Most High God will cover you." The child that would grow inside Mary had started from God covering her.

Q. What was Mary's response? (Let it happen, like you said.)

*Hint: Read 1:38 (TLB)*

"I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever he wants."

Even though Mary didn't understand the details, she understood that she would be the mother of Jesus...a baby that had been waited for, for a very, very long time!

Q. And what did Gabriel tell Mary right before he left? (He told her about the baby Zechariah and Elizabeth were going to have.)

After Gabriel left, Mary's heart must have been ready to burst with joy! God chose her to carry God's only son!

#### **4. What about me?**

**Summing it up: *Could God say he is pleased with me?***

Luke 1:30 (NIRV)

But the angel said to Mary, God is very pleased with you.

So I am thinking would God say that about me? Oh how I need Jesus to clean my heart and give me the power to please Him in everything I do, say and think!

I love how Mary responds to the news of how God is going to have her carry his only son.

Luke 1:48 (NIRV)

God has taken note of me even though I am not important.

Q. What does it mean "God has taken note of me"? (He sees me)

The meaning of "take note of me" is: to notice or give special attention to someone.



Q. Have you ever thought that God notices you. He notices you when you are having a good day. He notices you when you are having a bad day. He notices you when you try to be kind. He notices you!?! (Yes. No.)

Q. How does that make you act differently? (I want to do what's good! It makes me feel happy.)

I have a verse in my house. It is from Zephaniah 3:17 (NKJV)

“He will rejoice over you with singing.”

God sings about you...I'm don't think God takes showers...but if he did he would be singing about you during his shower! That's how much he loves you. And you are important to him! That is why baby Jesus is coming.

*\*Our Waiting/ God Answering “Beyond all we can imagine” chart*

*Add to chart:*

*Mary was a person who was content **not** to be noticed or important/ God saw Mary's heart and lifted her up to be very noticed and important. So important that she became the mom of God's only son...Jesus.*

## 5. Close in Prayer

Jesus I need you to help my heart be quiet as I wait for you to answer my prayers. Please help me remember how much you love me and care about all of the things I care about. I love you. Amen.

# Lesson 4

## “What is Going On!”

### Materials:

1. Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:35 and 48, I Chronicles 28:9
2. Flip chart
3. **Props:**
  - Figure of Mary...from a nativity set (Lesson 3)
  - Figure of Joseph ...from a nativity set (This week)
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mca5mZYk4ag&t=212s>  
Angel Visits Mary/ Jesus Tales (Note: The part about Joseph is towards the end, but the entire video is a nice review.)
5. “Beyond all we can imagine” chart

### Goals:

*Love:* Joseph loved Mary

*Faith:* Joseph believed the angel...He quickly did what the angel commanded him to do.

*Jesus:* Tradition has it that Joseph had died before Jesus’ ministry went public.

*Kim’s World:* No words are recorded in the Bible from Joseph, but believers know that his quick obedience to do what God told him to do declared him a righteous man. How many of the gang, including Kim, not only haven’t they had their words recorded...but they aren’t even able to speak! Yet their simple faith is displayed in their lives. 😊

### 1. Review the Story

**Summing it up:** *Mary is going to have a baby...Jesus!*

**Q.** Does anybody remember last week’s lesson? (Yes! Mary is going to have a baby!)

Hold up **the prop**, Mary, from Lesson 3

**Yes, she is!**

Q. What was so amazing about Mary having this baby? (He was Jesus. She was so young.)

Q. Mary was the mother, but who was the Father? (God)

Yes! Jesus is God's only son.

Q. How did Mary feel about having baby Jesus? (Excited. Scared.)

Well, she was frightened when the angel showed up and told her what was going to happen to her.

Q. But when she realized that God had chosen her to be Jesus' mom how did that make her feel? (Special)

Yes.

*Have someone read Luke 1:48*

<sup>48</sup> He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important. From now on all people will call me blessed.

Mary knew people would call her blessed. And she sure was! Out of zillions of women, God picked her to have Jesus!

Q. When God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother did he look at her outside or her heart? (Her heart)

He sure did...I love the verse we read last week, let's read it again:

1 Chronicles 28:9

<sup>9</sup> The LORD looks deep down inside every heart. He understands every desire and every thought.

Q. Did anyone think about this verse during the week? (Yes. No.)

I'm thankful that God never forgets to look at our hearts! He also knows the hopes we have! I love that!

Well, God wanted a special person to take care of Mary and Jesus. I am sure God was looking for a man with an incredible heart! So God chose Joseph!

## **2. Experience the Story**

### **Summing it up:**

*Have the students who are comfortable read aloud one verse each until they finish the passage. Adapt for slower readers by assisting them and/ or giving them shorter portions to read.*

Read Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph was faithful to the law. But he did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That’s because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet Isaiah, <sup>23</sup> “The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.” ([Isaiah 7:14](#)) The name Immanuel means “God with us.”

<sup>24</sup> Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not sleep with her until she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

Reinforce the story using the following three methods:

*1. Role play the story.*

*For costumes, use different colored scarves or shawls worn over the head or around the shoulders.*

*Person 1 (or should I say angel 😊)*

*Person 2: Joseph*

*2. Draw out the scene as you retell the story in your own words. Below is a completed sample drawing:*



3. Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mca5mZYk4ag&t=212s> Angel Visits Mary/ Jesus Tales (Some of this video is review for the gang...however, Joseph comes in toward the end)

### 3. Understand the Story

**Summing it up: God chose Joseph to take care of Mary and Jesus**

Our story starts out with Joseph and Mary.

Show **props** Joseph (today's lesson) and Mary, (from Lesson 3)

They loved one another so much that they promised to get married.

#### ***Historical Note:***

In Jesus' time people didn't get engaged. They were 'betrothed'. Getting married took two steps: First betrothal... Second the wedding ceremony.

When you were betrothed you were:

- \* legally married
- \* called husband and wife.
- \* you couldn't end betrothal unless you died or got divorced.

For about a year the bride would get the wedding organized and the groom would get a house ready. Then the big wedding ceremony happened and the couple would move into a home together.

So Mary and Joseph are 'betrothed'.

Q. What does Joseph notice? (Mary is going to have a baby.)

**Hint:** Use only if they don't get the answer. Matthew 1:18

Q. What kind of a man do you think Joseph was? (Kind. Loved God. Good heart.)

**Hint:** Use only if they don't get the answer. Matthew 1:19

Joseph was faithful to obey God, and he didn't want to embarrass or shame Mary...

Q. What do you think Mary would have been embarrassed about? (Being pregnant before the wedding?)

Yes. Joseph wanted to protect Mary's reputation.

"Beyond all we can imagine" chart

Add to chart:

Person	Waiting for...	What God does...
<i>Isaiah/Jewish people</i>	<i>A baby, the Messiah, to be born</i>	<i>He waits 700 years till the perfect time for this baby to be born.</i>
<i>Zechariah and Elizabeth</i>	<i>A baby</i>	<i>He gives them a child that God will use to announce the arrival of the Lord</i>
<i>Mary</i>	<i>She is waiting for God's promise of Jesus, the Messiah. Jesus, the Messiah that Isaiah talked about.</i>	<i>She was going to become pregnant and have the Messiah.</i>
<b>Joseph</b>	<b>He didn't want Mary shamed</b>	<b>From now on people will call Mary blessed.</b>

Now remember...

Q. What would people think about her when they noticed she was pregnant? (That she messed around with Joseph.)

That's right! But she didn't!

Q. Who was the father of the baby? (God)

**Hint:** Use only if they don't get the answer. Luke 1:35 from Lesson 3

*The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God.*

Q. So what did Joseph decide to do? (Divorce her quietly.)

**Hint:** Use only if they don't get the answer. Matthew 1:19



Q. Who shows up!? (An angel!)

Q. What does the angel say?

*Read Matthew 1:20*

*Write down their answers on the flip chart:*

- Don't be afraid!
- Have the wedding and take Mary home to be your wife.
- The baby's father is God!
- Mary is going to have a son and you will name him Jesus.

*Read Matthew 1:24*

Q. Did Joseph do everything the angel told him to do? (Yes)

Q. What did the angel tell Joseph to do?

*Write down their answers on the flip chart:*

- Take Mary home to be his wife
- Don't sleep with Mary until the baby is born
- Name the baby Jesus

#### **4. What about me?**

***Summing it up: Baby Jesus...God saves us!***

Let's look at Matthew 1:21

Q. What does verse 21 say this baby is going to be named? (Jesus)

Yes.

Q. Do you know what the name Jesus means? (Not sure.)

Look at the end of verse 21...and it tells us what the name Jesus means.

Q. What is the last sentence of verse 21? (He will save his people from their sins.)

Yes. Jesus' name means God saves. God saves us from sins.

Q. What are sins? (Doing something wrong)

Yes. A sin is the bad stuff we do that makes God sad and separates us from him...lots of time it will hurt us and other people. Jesus came to show us how much God loves us and doesn't want anything to separate us from his love!

### Draw this out

Q. So how is Jesus going to get us back together with God? (I have no idea.)

Well, I know this is a bit of a cliff hanger, but we are going to find out next week how this baby is going to save us! It is an amazing rescue!

### 5. Close in Prayer

God, we thank you for Jesus. That you are in him and he is in you and that we are all together. We love you! We praise you for the gift of Jesus!

# Lesson 5

## The Baby is Coming...Who Will Change the World!

### Materials:

1. Luke 2:1-7, John 3:16
2. Flip chart
3. **Props:**
  - Paper scroll with Isaiah 9:6 written on it (Lesson 1)
  - Small white board with “His name is John” written on it (Lesson 2)
  - Figure of Mary...from a nativity set (Lesson 3)
  - Figure of Joseph ...from a nativity set (Lesson 4)
  - Figure of Jesus ...from a nativity set (This week)
4. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2y2FJqsv\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2y2FJqsv_8) “He’s Here”- Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones
5. baby (it would be wonderful if a real baby could play the part of Jesus...otherwise find a doll for the Role Play 😊)
6. drumsticks and drum
7. Copy of ‘Gospel for the Gang’
8. “Beyond all we can imagine” chart

### Goals:

*Love:* For God so loved the world, that He gave us his only begotten son.

*Faith:* That God chose his son to be the rescuer for all who believe in him.

*Jesus:* “God has come to live with us.”

*Kim’s World:* The King of Kings left heaven to be born, in a barn, surrounded by animals and fed by a very young mother...while Joseph was cleaning up the

feeding trough so Jesus would have a place to sleep. This baby that would change eternity for Kim...and all those who believe. How can this be!!!!

## 1. Review the Story So Far

### Summing it up: *God preparing for his son to be born*

Let's think about how God was getting everything set up for his son, Jesus, to be born. Now, do you know how your mom or dad got ready for you before you were born?

Q. Were there baby showers? (Yes! I don't know.)

Q. Where did you sleep? Did your mom get a special place all ready for you to sleep in?

Q. Did your parents have the car seat all ready for you to get placed in for your drive home from the hospital?

Q. Did your mom have clothes and diapers all ready for your coming home?

*Give the gang time to respond and have fun with these questions ☺*

Oh the list goes on and on how babies are loved and cared for. All the preparations!

God started getting people ready for his son's birth a long, long, time ago.

Q. Remember the scroll?

Show **the prop** of the scroll from Lesson 1

*Give a student a set of drumsticks and a drum. Ask him or her to tap the drum, starting with a soft tap and making the drumbeats louder and louder with each person mentioned.*

Yes!

Q. Do you remember what the name of the prophet was who wrote the verse on the scroll? (Isaiah!)

Q. Who remembers how many years the scroll was written before Jesus was born? (700)

Yes! Isaiah wrote down what God told him to write down... that a child would be born...and a son would be given!

Then 700 years later Gabriel, the angel, did some important visits to prepare people for this child.

*The drumbeats get louder*

Q. Who got visits from the angels? (Zechariah, Mary, Joseph)

Show **the props** from Lessons 2,3,and 4

*The drumbeats get louder*

The night is here!!!! Jesus is going to be born.

Q. Do you think the sky will be filled with angels clapping cymbals, the moon changing to different brilliant colors, like a massive disco ball, beating to *Joy to the World*...maybe shooting stars falling down like rain from the sky? Maybe mountains bowing down? Maybe all the trees will clap their branches? Maybe all the rocks shouting, “Hallelujah! The King has come!” (Yes)

Let’s find out how God gets ready for his only son to be born! Because we know God can do all things spectacularly!!!!

*The drumbeats stop.*

**2. Experience the Story: *We will use all of our senses to experience the story in a variety of ways.***

**Summing it up: *Jesus is born***

*Have the students who are comfortable read aloud one verse each until they finish the passage. Adapt for slower readers by assisting them and/ or giving them shorter portions to read.*

*Read Luke 2:1, 3-7*

1. In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. <sup>3</sup> Everyone went to their own town to be listed.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. <sup>6</sup> While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

*Reinforce the story using the following three methods:*

*1. Role play the story.*

*Person 1: Mary*

*Person 2: Joseph*

*Person 3: soldier taking down names for Ceaser*

*Person 4: soldier*

*Person 5: Inn Keeper*

*Person 6-10: Donkeys, sheep, goat, camel*

*2. Draw out the scene as you retell the story in your own words. Below is a completed sample drawing:*



Lesson # 5

3. Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2y2FJqsv> 8 “He’s Here”- Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones

### 3. Understand the Story

**Summing it up: Long awaited Jesus comes...like a whisper**

Q. What was going wrong for Mary and Joseph? (They had to leave their town and go to another town when the baby was going to come)

Yes! That was a nail bitter! Of all the times for all the people to go back to the town to be counted!

Q. Well so what happened when they got to Bethlehem? (It was crowded)

Q. Why was this not convenient for Mary and Joseph? (Because she was almost ready to have a baby!)

Q. Do you think God would have been able to save a special spot in Bethlehem for Jesus to be born in? (Yes!)

We’ve learned many times that all things are possible with God. God could have easily gotten many rooms prepared for Jesus to be born in! Elaborate! Beautiful! A great doctor and nurses who could help with the birth. After all...Jesus was God’s only perfect son!!!! But this night, with all creation holding its breath, waiting for Jesus to come... and there was no room!

Q. Could God have had a meteor shower when Jesus was born? (Yes!)

Q. Could God have had the moon change colors to the beat of Joy to the World? (Yes!)

Q. What was so different about the way Jesus came into this world that night?

*Make a chart comparing how we were born vs. how Jesus was born*

<b>When I was born</b>	<b>When Jesus was born</b>
I was born in a hospital	He was born in a barn
It was clean	A stable is really dirty
It smelled good	The stable smelled like poo
I was washed and dressed in a onesie	Jesus was wrapped in strips of cloth



It was quiet

It was noisy (animals)

Room was made for you

No room for Jesus

*Give the gang time to continue thinking about what else to add to the chart above and they will come up with great things 😊*

Mary held Jesus exploding with joy! Joseph was in awe of the magnitude of God’s love for the world. And maybe even the animals surrounded the feeding trough where Jesus was sleeping...maybe looking for a piece of hay that Joseph left behind when he cleaned out the manger!

Jesus IS God’s son, but he was born in a way that he can say, “I know what it’s like to not have a place ready for me. I know what it’s like to be alone. I know what it’s like when people don’t make room for you. I know what it’s like to be poor.”

Q. If Jesus would have been born in a palace would you think he could connect with the poor? (No)

Q. If Jesus was born with many people around him caring for every single one of his needs would he be able to connect with people who have so little? (No)

God gave us the gift of all gifts the night Jesus was born. This baby is going to save the world!

*“Beyond all we can imagine” chart*

*Add to chart:*

Person	Waiting for...	What God does...
<i>Isaiah/Jewish people</i>	<i>A baby, the Messiah, to be born</i>	<i>He waits 700 years till the perfect time for this baby to be born.</i>
<i>Zechariah and Elizabeth</i>	<i>A baby</i>	<i>He gives them a child that God will use to announce the arrival of the Lord</i>
<i>Mary</i>	<i>She is waiting for God’s promise of Jesus, the Messiah. Jesus, the Messiah that Isaiah talked about.</i>	<i>She was going to become pregnant and have the Messiah.</i>
<i>Joseph</i>	<i>He didn’t want Mary shamed</i>	<i>From now on people will call Mary blessed.</i>

<i>Mary and Joseph</i>	<i>Baby Jesus</i>	<i>He gives the baby that would save the world</i>

#### **4. What about me?**

##### **Summing it up: Jesus, the rescuer**

Let's read John 3:16

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

*Read 'Gospel for the Gang'*

#### **5. Close in Prayer**

God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for loving us so much that you sent Jesus into the world to die for us so we can live forever! We love you! Help us live a life worthy of this kind of love. Amen.

# Lesson 6

## The Shepherds Let Loose!

### Materials:

1. Luke 2:8-20 (The Message) Isaiah 55:8-9 (The Message) Isaiah 7:14
2. Flip chart
3. **Props:**
  - Paper Scroll with Isaiah 9:6 (Lesson 1)
  - Figure of Mary...from a nativity set (Lesson 3)
  - Figure of Joseph ...from a nativity set (Lesson 4)
  - Figure of Jesus ...from a nativity set (Lesson 5)
  - Figure of Shepherds ...from a nativity set (This week)
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJIC57EvYFo> The Story of Jesus (Jesus and the Shepherds) Saddleback Kids
5. baby (it would be wonderful if a real baby could play the part of Jesus...otherwise find a doll ☺)
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPsgIhlYQmM> Mary Did You Know with Lyrics doctorbygod
7. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsX3tYbai1Q> Go Tell it On the Mountain with lyrics | Christmas Gospel Song & Carol Christmas songs and carols love to sing
8. “Beyond all we can imagine” chart

### Goals:

*Love:* One day Jesus would be the lamb that would take away the sins of the world.

*Faith:* God himself, became flesh...let's all let loose. glorifying and praising God!!!

*Jesus:* The Lamb of God

*Kim's World:* Kim loves Christmas...she does love all the razz and matzah...but so much more she LOVES the story of Jesus' birth. When she sings (she signs) Joy to the World her hands fly in praise for the gift of all gifts...Jesus!

## **1. Review the Story**

**Summing it up: *Jesus is here!***

I think you all remember what we talked about last week!

Q. What was it? (Jesus was born!)

Yes! Jesus was born!!!

Show **the props** from Lesson 3,4 and 5

Q. Can you tell me what was different about Jesus' birth? (No one was around. He was born in a barn.)

Look at the list from last week about how Jesus' birth was different

Here's a verse in the Bible, that our friend Isaiah wrote. This verse tells us that God does things differently than we do...

Have one of the gang read this verse:

Isaiah 55:8-9 The Message

I (God) don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work.

The way Jesus came into the world was the opposite way we thought he would have come...actually today I thought to myself, 'when babies are born the most important people in their life show up to take a first glimpse of the beautiful new baby. Maybe the baby's brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, grandma's and grandpa's...but not so with baby Jesus.

...and the night Jesus was born, God sure had his own ideas about how his son would come into the world!

Well God also has his own way of announcing his only son's birth...

**2. Experience the Story:** *We will use all of our senses to experience the story in a variety of ways.*

**Summing it up:** *The Shepherds visit Jesus*

*Have the students who are comfortable read aloud one verse each until they finish the passage. Adapt for slower readers by assisting them and/ or giving them shorter portions to read.*

*Read Luke 2:8-20*

**8-12** There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God’s angel stood among them and God’s glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid. I’m here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David’s town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you’re to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger.”

**13-14** At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God’s praises:

Glory to God in the heavenly heights,  
Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

**15-18** As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. “Let’s get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.” They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

**19-20** Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they’d been told!

*Reinforce the story using the following three methods:*

*1. Role play the story.*

*Person 1: Mary*

*Person 2: Joseph*

*Person 3: baby Jesus*

*Person 4: shepherd*

*Person 5: shepherd*

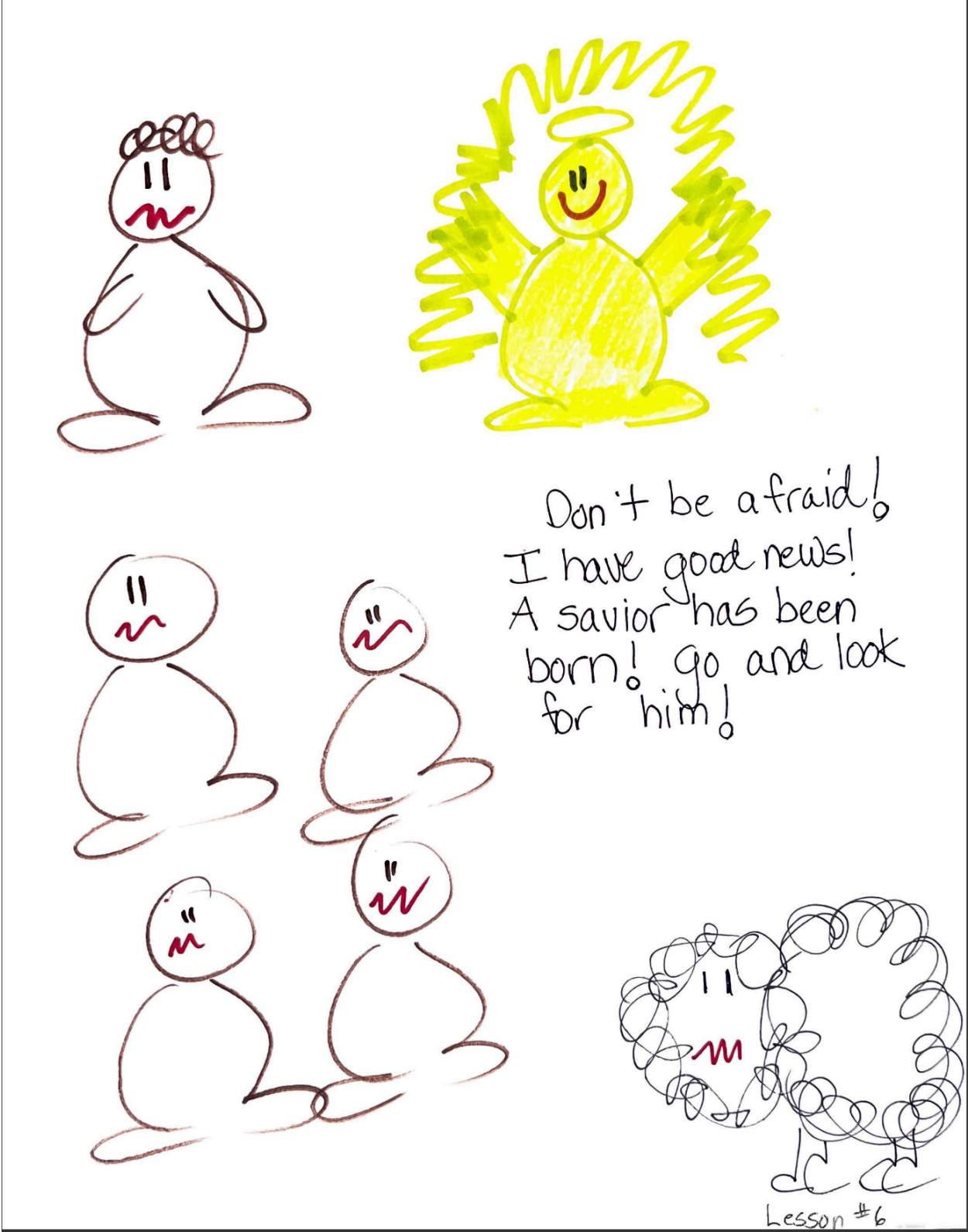
*Person 6: shepherd*

*Person 7-12: Angels*

*Extra people: Sheep*

2. Draw out the scene as you retell the story in your own words. Below is a completed sample drawing:





3. Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJIC57EvYFo> *The Story of Jesus (Jesus and the Shepherds)*

### **3. Understand the Story**

**Summing it up: What a glorious announcement!**

Q. Where were the shepherds? (In a field)

Show **the prop** for today's lesson

Q. What were they probably doing? (Sleeping)

Hint: It was night

I have a hard time staying up after 9:00...but not these shepherds! They kept a close watch on their sheep and didn't sleep a wink! Luke tells us they were "watching their flocks by night". Not one snore!

#### **Historical Note:**

Now these shepherds were taking care of the Temple's sheep. These sheep would have been used as a sacrifice. How amazing that Jesus, the lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice, would first be visited by these shepherds. Is that part of what Mary pondered? (Edersheim, pg. 187)

Q. Do you think the sheep were asleep? (Yes!)

Q. Who showed up? (An angel)

Q. And just like everyone else who sees an angel, how did the shepherds react? (They were afraid.)

Yes.

Q. And what do angels say to people when they are afraid? (Don't be afraid!)

You got it! And not only did the angel say don't be afraid, he also said, 'I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, all around the world.'

Q. What was this great and joyful event the angel was talking about? (Jesus was born!)

Yes! The angel said, "A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger." *Luke 2:11-12*



Q. As soon as this angel told the shepherds where to find Jesus... now who shows up? (Lots of angels!)

**Hint:** Use this if the gang doesn't have the answer to above question. Luke 2:13

Q. What did all these angels say to the shepherds? (Glory to God)

**Hint:** Use this if the gang doesn't have the answer to above question. Luke 2:14

*Reread this verse to emphasize this astounding news!*

14. May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!

Q. After the angels said this, what happened to them? (They left and went back to heaven.)

Wow. Let's just imagine you are one of the shepherds...in the field...starting to doze off... something so bright makes you almost jump out of your skin...it's the angel...then a whole mess...armies of them start singing!

Q. What do you think about this birth announcement? (Wow! Awesome! A little scary!)

Remember how we just talked about how Isaiah said that God doesn't do things the way we do?

Isaiah 55:8-9 The Message

I (God) don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work.

Have you ever heard of a birth announcement like this!!!! I think the shepherds reacted just like we would... they shot off like a rocket toward Bethlehem to see the baby!

Q. So do you think the shepherds would have slowly walked to Bethlehem? (No! Fast!)

Yes! That's just what the Bible says.

They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Everything the angel said was true! Luke 2:16 (The Message)

Q. Now if you'd been the shepherd would you have been quiet about seeing Jesus? (No!)

Either would I! It says the shepherds told EVERYONE!

Q. But who was quiet? (Mary)

*Have one of the gang read aloud Luke 2:19 (The Message)*

Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself.

Q. Why do you think she was quiet? (She was tired. She was thinking about Jesus.)

It says that Mary hid all that had happened in her heart like a secret treasure. She thought about them over and over.

I think this is what she treasured. God became flesh. God became a person, like you and me.

As a matter of fact...our friend Isaiah (Show *the prop* from lesson 1)

wrote down in one of his scrolls this verse:

*Have one of the gang read aloud Isaiah 7:14*

The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.

Q. And do you know what Immanuel means? (Not sure)

Immanuel was like a nick name for Jesus, and it meant “God with us.”



Q. How amazing is this?

*Wait for the gang's responses*

That's why angels lit up the sky praising God. God himself came to earth to save us and give us eternal life!

*Play the song "Mary Did You Know?"*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPsgIhlYQmM> Mary Did You Know with Lyrics

*"Beyond all we can imagine" chart*

*Add to chart:*

Person	Waiting for...	What God does...
<i>Isaiah/Jewish people</i>	<i>A baby, the Messiah, to be born</i>	<i>He waits 700 years till the perfect time for this baby to be born.</i>
<i>Zechariah and Elizabeth</i>	<i>A baby</i>	<i>He gives them a child that God will use to announce the arrival of the Lord</i>

Mary	<i>She is waiting for God's promise of Jesus, the Messiah. Jesus, the Messiah that Isaiah talked about.</i>	<i>She was going to become pregnant and have the Messiah.</i>
Joseph	<i>He didn't want Mary shamed</i>	<i>From now on people will call Mary blessed.</i>
Mary and Joseph	<i>The baby</i>	<i>The baby that came into the world to save sinners</i>
Shepherds	<i>The sun to come up ☺</i>	<i>He sent armies of angels and told them the best news anyone has ever heard!</i>

#### **4. What about me?**

##### **Summing it up: The shepherds told everyone!**

God became flesh and lived among us. Jesus left heaven living with his father, to come and be born a baby...

Q. Can you imagine such love from God?

Let's read John 3:16

<sup>16</sup> God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

Q. What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus lying in the manger? (They told everyone!)

I love this song because this is what I want to do! I want to tell everyone that Jesus Christ is born!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsX3tYbai1Q> Go Tell it On the Mountain with lyrics | Christmas Gospel Song & Carol

#### **Historical Note:**

In 1634 an artist named Rembrandt painted this. When Rembrandt wanted to show what was most important in his paintings he would make that area bright.

Show the picture:

<https://www.artic.edu/artworks/29062/the-angel-appearing-to-the-shepherds> The angel appearing to the shepherds

Q. What is the part that Rembrandt thought was important? (The Angels. The Shepherds.)

Yes. I think Rembrandt is painting himself with the shepherds...scared because they were seeing lots of angels. Excited because they were hearing news about Jesus. Hiding because they were in the middle of such glory!

### **5. Close in Prayer**

God, you could have had all the galaxies bow down when Jesus was born...but you didn't. You had poor, smelly shepherds bow down instead. Thank you for Jesus. Thank you that you really became a man who lived like us. We love you. Amen.

# Lesson 7

## He's Coming...Back!

### Materials:

1. Luke 2:19 (The Message), John 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, Revelation 21:5
2. Flip chart
3. Make enough copies of the Wordless Book for everyone in your class  
<https://www.letthelittlechildrencome.com/child-evangelism-resources/wordless-book-share-the-gospel/>
4. **Props:**
  - Figure of Shepherds ...from a nativity set (Lesson 6)
  - Small Trumpet (This week)
5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVndKYpxiX8> One Day Jesus Will Return|Animated Bible Story for Kids by Bible Kids
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YG3TCh6Dyfs> Andrae Crouch Soon and Very Soon Live Mightyk23
7. “Beyond all we can imagine” chart

### Goals:

*Love:* God loves us so much that he wants to live with us forever in a perfect place!

*Faith:* One day Jesus will return.

*Jesus:* The death of Jesus meant life for us forever.

*Kim's World:* When Kim has a rough day many times we end up talking about heaven...where there won't be frustration, worry and she'll be able to use her 'God Voice!' But then I'll say, “Kim, those trumpets could blow today and we're out of here!

## 1. Review the Story

### Summing it up: Thinking and wondering about Jesus

Q. What do you remember from our lesson last week? (The Shepherds came to see Jesus.)

Hold up **the prop** from last week if the gang needs help to remember!

Yes!

Q. Remember the angel showed up...again...and said, what to the Shepherds? (Don't be afraid!)

That's right. Toward the end of our lesson I showed you this picture.



It says that Mary hid all that had happened in her heart like a secret treasure. She thought about them over and over.

Have someone read aloud Luke 2:19 (The Message)

19 Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself.

Q. What happened to Mary? (She had Jesus.)

Q. What was so special about that? (He was God's son)

**Hint:** *Who was the father of Jesus? (God)*

Q. So what do you think was this secret treasure Mary was thinking about? (Jesus being God's son.)

Maybe Mary thought about John 3:16

**2. Experience the Story** *We will use all of our senses to experience the story in a variety of ways.*

**Summing it up: The Gospel**

*Read together John 3:16*

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

<https://www.letthelittlechildrencome.com/child-evangelism-resources/wordless-book-share-the-gospel/>

*Please familiarize this so you are dreaming about this wordless book. Pray, ask others to pray, as you go through this simple, but powerful tool to explain the Gospel.*

Q. How do you feel after we've looked at this little book? (Answers vary)

*Take time with this question. Make sure the gang understands the gospel. Wait for their responses.*

Q. Do you know you are forgiven? (Yes!)

And because of Jesus and his love for us and dying for us we will live forever.

Q. Now for the last six weeks we learned about Jesus coming as a baby...but do you know Jesus is coming again? (Yes, I think so. I heard that he is.)

Q. Do you think Jesus is going to come back differently the second time than he did when he came as a baby? (Yes!)



### **3. Understand the Story**

#### **Summing it up: Jesus is coming back!**

Did you know there is going to be a REALLY big celebration? And this celebration is going to start with trumpets sounding. (Show prop)

*Read:*

*Students who are comfortable reading aloud may each read one colored section until they finish the passage. Adapt for slower readers by assisting them and/or giving them shorter portions to read. Some students may feel more comfortable using a pointer while another student reads.*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

<sup>16</sup> The Lord himself will come down from heaven. We will hear a loud command. We will hear the voice of the leader of the angels. We will hear a blast from God's trumpet. Many who believe in Christ will have died already. They will rise first.

<sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them. We will be taken up in the clouds. We will meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with him forever.

<sup>18</sup> So encourage one another with these words of comfort.

Reinforce the story using the following three methods:

1. *Role play the story.*

*Person 1: Mom*

*Person 2: Dad*

*Person (or should I say angel 😊)*

*Person 4: Daughter*

*Person 5: Son*

*Person 6: Jesus*

*Person 7-? Will be people who have died and are now raised to life when they hear the trumpets blast*

*While having dinner ...you hear a really loud voice and a trumpet blast! The leader of the angels sounds like thunder! We see Jesus coming! Behind him are all the people who have died and are now raised... we see them alive! It is a HUGE parade! Then...all of us around the dinner table 'lift off' and join Jesus in the air and we join this parade!*

2. Draw out the scene as you retell the story in your own words. Below is a completed sample drawing:



3. Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVndKYpxiX8> One Day Jesus Will Return|Animated Bible Story for Kids by Bible Kids

Q. Have you ever heard that Jesus is going to come back? (Yes. No.)

Jesus is coming back for us! Because Jesus loves us he will come back for us to live with him forever!

Q. Let's make a chart comparing the first time Jesus came to earth as a baby to Jesus coming back the second time for us.

*Fill in this chart as the gang responds with their answers...Here is a sample of what the gang may bring up...*

**“Jesus coming as a baby”**

A few knew the night Jesus was born  
 It was quiet  
 Mary and Joseph alone  
 Wrapped in strips of material  
 Put in a feeding trough  
 Mary hid her thoughts  
 Announcement to shepherds  
 The Shepherds worshipped  
 This Jesus came to die

**“Jesus coming as the King”**

Everyone will know when Jesus comes again  
 Trumpets will blast.(prop) Armies of angels sing  
 Saints will return, the dead will rise, we will rise  
 Dressed in dazzling white  
 Coming on a strong white horse  
 All will know how amazing God's love is  
 Announcement to every person on earth  
 Every single knee will bow  
 This Jesus will triumph over all death

*“Beyond all we can imagine” chart*

Person	Waiting for...	What God does...
<i>Isaiah/Jewish people</i>	<i>A baby, the Messiah, to be born</i>	<i>He waits 700 years till the perfect time for this baby to be born.</i>
<i>Zechariah and Elizabeth</i>	<i>A baby</i>	<i>He gives them a child that God will use to announce the arrival of the Lord</i>
<i>Mary</i>	<i>She was waiting for the Messiah that Isaiah talked about.</i>	<i>She was going to become pregnant and have a boy and name him Jesus</i>

<i>Joseph</i>	<i>He didn't want Mary shamed</i>	<i>An angel went to him and told him that Mary was going to have a baby from the Holy Spirit and to name him Jesus</i>
<i>Mary and Joseph</i>	<i>A room</i>	<i>They ended up in a quiet stable. There Mary delivered baby Jesus.</i>
<i>Shepherds</i>	<i>The morning to come so their same old job would continue caring for the sheep</i>	<i>Sends lots of angels to tell them about baby Jesus being born in Bethlehem.</i>
<i>All of us who love Jesus</i>	<i>Jesus to return</i>	<i>I can't wait to see all of what God has promised come to be!!!!</i>

For two thousand years people have prayed and waited for Christ's return/ When those trumpets blow EVERYTHING WILL BE MADE NEW! EVERYTHING! EVERYWHERE!

#### **4. What about me?**

**Summing it up: *We live with a living hope***

Q. How does it make you feel about the 'resurrection parade' when Jesus comes back? (Excited)

Read I Thessalonians 4:18

<sup>18</sup> So encourage one another with these words of comfort.

Q. Why does this verse encourage you? (I'll live forever. I'll see my dad.)

Yes! We will live forever, without any more problems, sin, disability! Everything will be made new!

Read Revelation 21:5

<sup>5</sup> He who was sitting on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YG3TCh6Dyfs> Soon and Very Soon

Andrae Crouch Soon and Very Soon Live Mightyk23

*Read together:*

Revelation 22:20

"He who has said all these things declares: Yes, I am coming soon!"

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

### **5. Close in Prayer**

Jesus, when we think about you coming back for us we can hardly stay in our chairs!!!! Oh how we thank you that you died for us, so that we can live forever with you! We are so thankful that one day you will take away all the sadness and pain and tears! We will be praising you forever, learning everyday how deeply you love us!

Forever yours!