

God Hears Zechariah's Prayer and Promises Him a Son

Scripture

- Luke 1:5-25

Key Themes (Choose one or more.)

- Faith pleases God. (Zechariah and Elizabeth trusted God, believed His Word, and offered sacrifices just as God had commanded Moses.)
- Man can come to God only according to God's will and plan.
- God communicates with man. (An angel told Zechariah God's plan; God heard Zechariah's prayer and responded.)
- God is faithful; He always does what He says He will do. (He keeps His promises and fulfills His prophecies.)
- Jesus Christ is God. (See Luke 1:16-17. John prepares God's people for the Lord Jesus.)

Curriculum Resources

- Teacher Preparation Page for Lesson 1
- Coloring Book Visual for Lesson 1
- Student Coloring Book for Lesson 1 (for each student)
- A Note to Parents (for each student)
- Parent Page for Lesson 1 (for each student)

Other Supplies

(Supplies will vary based on which options you choose.)

- Bible (English Standard Version)
- Family photograph (perhaps your own family)
- Message you have prepared to read for the class (see Hooks for details)

Main Storyline

(Fill in details and use vocabulary appropriate to the age you are teaching.)

- Zechariah and Elizabeth loved God and followed His commands.
- They were old and had no children.
- Zechariah was a priest and was chosen to offer incense in the temple, while many people were praying outside the temple.¹
- An angel appeared to Zechariah in the temple, which made Zechariah afraid.
- The angel told Zechariah not to be afraid. He had a message for Zechariah: God had answered Zechariah's prayers. Elizabeth would have a son, and they should name him John. There would be much joy and gladness at the birth of John.
- God had set John apart for a special mission (job) and, even before he was born, John was filled with the Holy Spirit. John was chosen to preach and prepare the hearts of the people for the coming of Jesus.
- This was unbelievable news for Zechariah. He asked the angel how he could know this news was true since he and Elizabeth were very old.
- The angel, Gabriel, was bringing good news, but Zechariah doubted the word of the angel. As a result, Zechariah would be unable to speak until the birth of John.
- Just as the angel had said, when Zechariah came out of the temple, he could not speak. The people realized he had seen a vision while in the temple.
- True to God's word delivered by the angel, Elizabeth became pregnant.

¹ Note: There were many priests at this time, so the custom was to draw lots to see who would offer incense. This was a great privilege and possibly one that would only come once in a priest's life. So this was an important happening for Zechariah. The burning of incense in the Bible is a symbol of prayers offered to the Lord.

Teacher Preparation

After reading through the Scripture several times, praying, meditating on the key themes, and discerning how the Holy Spirit is leading you to tell the story, use the Teacher Preparation Page to help you structure your story. Include the key theme/s, any Scripture verse you will read, the Hook, your notes or outline, any Curriculum Resources or other supplies you will need, and your approach to the story. See Story Preparation instructions in the appendix.

Hooks (Choose one.)

Hook Option 1

Family photo

(Show a **family photo**—perhaps your own family. Explain who the people in the picture are.)

The Bible tells us about a family that was a very small family—only a husband and a wife, no children.

(You may want to cover up the children on the **family photo**.)

But the husband and the wife really wanted a baby. Do you think God gave them a baby? Let's hear the story about the small family.

Hook Option 2

Message you have prepared to read to the class

(Show the **message you have prepared to read to the class**.)

I have a message here for the class. Do you want to hear it?

(Read the **message**.)

Our story today is about a very special message. Let's find out what it is.

Looks (Choose one.)

Look Option 1



(Show the **Coloring Book Visual for Lesson 1**.)

Who is the man in the picture? What kind of a person was Zechariah? [believed in God; obeyed God]

What was Zechariah's wife's name? What kind of a person was Elizabeth? What did Zechariah and Elizabeth want?

But they didn't have a baby. So what did they do about this problem?

Did God hear Zechariah and Elizabeth when they prayed? Yes, God always hears His children when they pray.

God sent an angel to tell Zechariah that He heard Zechariah and Elizabeth's prayer about a baby.

What did the angel tell Zechariah? [his prayers had been heard; Elizabeth would have a baby]

Was God happy that Zechariah and Elizabeth prayed to Him?

Do you think that Zechariah and Elizabeth prayed for many years for a baby? They probably did because they were kind of old. Even though God would give Zechariah and Elizabeth a baby, they had to wait a long time.

Do you think it might have been hard for Zechariah and Elizabeth to wait for God to bring them a baby? But they kept praying and trusting God for a baby.

Do you think that God was happy that Zechariah and Elizabeth kept praying?

Sometimes when God answers our prayers, “Yes,” we still have to wait a long time before God does what He is going to do.

Is it sometimes hard to wait for the answer to our prayers? Sometimes we have to pray about something for a long time, too. Is God happy when we keep praying and trusting Him to answer our prayers?

Have you been praying about anything for a long time?

(Note: Make sure the children understand that God’s answers to prayer can be, “Yes,” “No,” or “Wait.”)

Look Option 2



(Show the **Coloring Book Visual for Lesson 1.**)

Who is this man? Who is this? (Point to the angel Gabriel.)

Who sent the angel to Zechariah? Why did God send an angel to Zechariah? What did God promise Zechariah?

Does God always keep His promises?

Did Elizabeth have a baby? Yes. God kept His promise. God is faithful. He always does what He says He will do.

God said that Elizabeth would have a baby, and Elizabeth did have a baby, just like God promised.

What special job did God have for John?

Foundation Verse

- Luke 18:27b—“What is impossible with man is possible with God.” (ESV)
- Luke 18:27b—“What is impossible with man is possible with God.” (NIV)

Send Home

- A Note to Parents (for each student)
- Parent Page for Lesson 1 (for each student)