



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 1

THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

God announced the coming of His Son in fulfillment of the Prophets.



MONDAY

THE STORY: LUKE 1:1-38

Luke begins his Gospel account by explaining to us the careful, orderly way he researched and retold the story of Jesus. After a short introduction, Luke tells of two angels who announced the coming of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ the Messiah. Two women, Elizabeth and Mary, are to miraculously conceive. Elizabeth was barren, much like Sarah (Abraham's wife) was barren. Once again God promised to fill a barren womb with life, demonstrating His magnificent power to accomplish His plan. Mary's pregnancy was to be even more amazing. God Himself would cause Mary, a virgin, to conceive a child by the Holy Spirit, before she was even married! Her son, Jesus, would fulfill the Old Testament prophecy of an everlasting king on David's throne. The angel further announced that the child would be called "holy – the Son of God."

TALK ABOUT IT:

How was the announcement of Jesus' coming an answer to God's promise to Abraham? (God promised Abraham that all nations would be blessed through

his descendants. We learn in Matthew 1:1, 2 that Jesus was descended from Abraham. All the nations will be blessed through Jesus, who is bringing salvation.)

Why did Zechariah lose his voice? (Zechariah lost his voice because he didn't believe the angel's words to him.)

PRAY:

Thank God for keeping His promise to send an eternal king to be on the throne forever. Ask God to help you believe and trust in God's amazing plan.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: LUKE 1:39-45

Mary sang a song of praise. After the angel told Mary about God's plan, Mary went with haste to see Elizabeth. Upon Mary's arrival, Elizabeth's baby jumped inside her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and then said some amazing things. She said that Mary's baby would be her Lord! She knew that Mary had believed the angel Gabriel's words and had faith that what he said would come to pass.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What was amazing about Elizabeth's greeting? (She knew what happened to Mary even though Mary didn't tell her!)

What did Elizabeth's baby do when she heard Mary had arrived? (Elizabeth's baby, the infant John the Baptist, leaped inside of her.)

Why should we be joyful about the coming of Jesus? (The baby Jesus grew up to live a perfect life and then die on the cross to take our sins away.)

PRAY:

Ask God to help each person in your family rejoice over the coming of our Savior.



**WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

THE STORY: LUKE 1:46-55

When Mary saw Elizabeth with child, she realized that what the angel Gabriel told her was true. Then she heard Elizabeth's prophetic blessing. Filled with wonder and joy, she worshipped God with a song.

Mary was a sinner just like us. She needed a Savior and she knew that with the birth of the baby inside of her, God's promise would be fulfilled. She knew that God's plan of salvation would somehow be about her son. Her words are a song of praise to God for His incredible mercy promised to Abraham and his descendants. The fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham was going to come through Jesus. But Mary could not have understood that her son would be sacrificed on the cross in order to fulfill that promise. It is through Jesus that people from every nation would be blessed.

The Gospel is also found in Zechariah's prophecy when he talks about God redeeming His people (Luke 1:68) and how Jesus will give knowledge of God's salvation (Luke 1:71-77).

TALK ABOUT IT :

Why did Mary call God her Savior? (Mary called God her Savior because she knew that she was a sinner and that only God could save her from her sin.)

Do we also need a Savior? Why? (Yes, we also need a Savior. Our sin separates us from God. As sinners we can never save ourselves. It is only by God's mercy in sending Jesus that we can be saved.)

PRAY:

Ask the children what we would want to say if we were going to sing a song of praise to God for Jesus. Take their answers and help them form their words into a prayer. If you know a worship chorus that contains some of what they suggest, sing it with them.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: LUKE 1:57-80

John the Baptist is born. Just as the angel of the Lord prophesied, Elizabeth gave birth to a son. The people were surprised when Elizabeth decided to call him John, because there was no one with that name in their family. When Zechariah confirmed that the baby should be called John, he demonstrated faith in God's plan and he immediately regained his speech. The Holy Spirit filled Zechariah, and he prophesied that God had raised up a "horn of salvation." This was a reference to Jesus.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do we learn about Jesus from this prophetic word? (We learn that through Him, God would redeem His people. We also learn that Jesus will be a "horn of salvation" who saves us from our enemies and brings us peace. Jesus would come as promised by the prophets and make Israel able to serve God in righteousness.)

What does having all this detail in Zechariah's prophecy tell us about God? (God is a sovereign God in control of all details. He is powerfully bringing His plan of salvation to pass.)

PRAY:

Thank God for being all-powerful. Thank Him that He is able to bring salvation to all of us. Praise God that nothing can stop His awesome plan!



FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

THE STORY: ISAIAH 4:2,3

Jesus is the righteous branch spoken of in Isaiah's prophecy. His death on the cross and His righteous life enable us to live in righteousness and holiness. When Jesus, the Branch of the Lord, returns again, He will defeat sin and death forever. Jeremiah 23:5, 6 connects the Branch of the Lord with Jesus by using the name "the Lord our Righteousness."

TALK ABOUT IT:

What verse of Zechariah's prophecy (Luke 2) speaks of the holiness and righteousness we will demonstrate as a result of God's salvation? (Luke 2:75 speaks of us serving Jesus in righteousness and holiness all our days. This righteous living is not just a single act, but a completely changed life.)

Until Jesus comes again and sin is taken away, what can we do when we sin? (We can confess our sin to God and to others and ask Jesus to forgive us of our sin.)

PRAY:

Have your children share ways in which they see sin in their lives, and then have each one pray and ask God to forgive them and help them live for God until He returns.