



*August 27, 2017*

*4's – Classroom 164*

Dear Teacher,

Today is Promotion Sunday, a new year to see God work mightily through you as you share the love of Jesus with the children in your class. Today, and for the whole year, we will learn about Jesus. Today's story is about Zacharias and Simeon and Anna. For the last two years, we have taught children that a king was to come that would make everything good and right again. In our story today we see two themes as they line up with the characters: Waiting and frustration with Zacharias, and then joy with Simeon and Anna.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** *Christ: Zechariah, Simeon and Anna*

**Lesson Objective:** To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God kept His greatest and best promise by sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sins.

**Scripture:** Luke 1; 2:22-38

**Story:** Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 1-2 (Pages 263-265, 267); Gospel Story Book Bible, Pages 158-159; 162-163; The Beginner's Bible, Pages 284-287.

### Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- For many, many years God's people expected the Promised One – a King – to come and make all things right.
- The priest Zechariah knew about Jesus long before many people.
- The Lord promised Zechariah and his wife Mary they would have a son. Both were very old; Zechariah did not believe the Lord's promise.
- The Lord made Zechariah unable to talk until his own son, John, was born. This made Zechariah very frustrated.
- The Promised One, this King, had finally arrived and his name was Jesus.
- When Jesus's parents went to the Temple to dedicate him, they were met by Simeon and Anna.
- Simeon and Anna were joyful because they had seen the Lord keep His Promise. This made them very, very glad.

## 9:30am Sunday Schedule – Posted in classroom

### Opening Activity

Props: Headbands Game, set of cards - Gabriel, Mary, Elizabeth, Zachariah Baby Jesus, and John the Baptist

Headbands WITH and WITHOUT Words. Teachers wear headbands and ask children questions as to who/what they are. After the children play 2-3 rounds of cards, play the game again and ask the children to answer the questions about the same animal/item on the card without using words. Talk about how hard it is to communicate without using words.

### Craft: His name is John

*Supplies:* White cardstock, hand, pencil, crayons/markers

*Instructions:*

1. Glue hand to cardstock with index finger pointing to John
2. Glue pencil to hand tucked under thumb
3. Color if desired



### Relay of the Day: What's My Name

- Teach the sign for Jesus (nail pierced hands symbolizing Savior dying on the cross), John (a hug symbolizing his name meaning Beloved).
- Practice both signs with kids. Teacher calls out "Jesus" and kids act it out. Same with John.

*Instructions:* Divide the class in half with 1-2 teachers in charge of each team. Place a teacher on one side of the room as "Gabriel" and their team on the opposite side of the room. Each "messenger" child will run across the room and "Gabriel" will whisper either "His Name shall be Jesus" or "His name will be John" in their ear. The "messenger" then runs back to the next child in line and acts out "Jesus" or "John". The teacher on this end may have to help them along the way. As soon as the teammate figures out what the name is, the messenger sits down and the next child takes a turn running to "Gabriel" and getting the message and being the messenger. First team seated wins.

### Cherub Church

3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 168, 166, 165, 164)

*After Cherub Church* - Play the game using a set of Gabriel, Mary, Elizabeth, Zachariah, Baby Jesus, and John the Baptist cards. Teacher places the cards in the headband and asks questions about who they are for the first round. For the second round, the children try to answer without using words.

### Snack

## 11am Sunday Schedule

### Opening Activity

Props: Headbands Game, set of cards

Headbands WITH and WITHOUT Words. Teachers wear headbands and ask children questions as to who/what they are. After the children play 2-3 rounds of cards, play the game again and ask the children to answer the questions about the same animal/item on the card without using words. Talk about how hard it is to communicate without using words.

**Story:** *Christ: Zacharias, Simeon and Anna*

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the transition question: Boys and girls, how long do you think you can keep quiet? Not a peep, not a word, no sounds at all? Do you think you could do it for 5 minutes? A whole day? A whole year? What about 400 years?!?! Well in our story today we learn that God did not speak to His people for over four hundred years! But when He finally speaks, He has a big surprise for them. Let's read our story to find out what the surprise is!
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story. Feel free to edit and adapt to your own style. Include props and teaching aids as you see fit.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

**Craft:** Angel

**Supplies:** Peach cardstock, 2 hands (wings), blue triangle (body), circle (face), yarn (hair)

**Instructions:**

1. Glue hands to cardstock in opposite directions to form wings
2. Glue triangle on top of hands for angel body
3. Glue circle at top of triangle for angel face
4. Glue yarn on top of circle for angel hair
5. Draw face



**Questions for Review**

**Scripture Memory (John 1:29)**

**Catechism Questions (1-20)**

**Relay of the Day: What's My Name**

- Teach the sign for Jesus (nail pierced hands symbolizing Savior dying on the cross), John (a hug symbolizing his name meaning Beloved).
- Practice both signs with kids. Teacher calls out "Jesus" and kids act it out. Same with John.

**Instructions:** Divide the class in half with 1-2 teachers in charge of each team. Place a teacher on one side of the room as "Gabriel" and their team on the opposite side of the room. Each "messenger" child will run across the room and "Gabriel" will whisper either "His Name shall be Jesus" or "His name will be John" in their ear. The "messenger" then runs back to the next child in line and acts out "Jesus" or "John". The teacher on this end may have to help them along the way. As soon as the teammate figures out what the name is, the messenger sits down and the next child takes a turn running to "Gabriel" and getting the message and being the messenger. First team seated wins.

**Questions for Review**

**Questions for Younger Children:**

- Who was the priest in our story?
- What does a priest do?
- What did the angel tell Zechariah?
- Who was the old man at the Temple?
- Who was the old lady at the Temple?
- How did they respond to seeing Jesus?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about God's faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about God's love for us?

### Scripture Memory for August:

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)

## Story

### **Transition**

Boys and girls, how long do you think you can keep quiet? Not a peep, not a word, no sounds at all? Do you think you could do it for 5 minutes? A whole day? A whole year? What about 400 years?!?! Well in our story today we learn that God did not speak to His people for over four hundred years! But when He finally speaks, He has a big surprise for them. Let's read our story to find out what the surprise is!

### **God Speaks**

Zechariah was a faithful man of God. He loved the Lord and served as priest to the Lord. A priest was someone who helped God's people worship Him. Zechariah was married to a woman named Elizabeth, and the Bible tells us they both were righteous before God and did everything He asked of them. Zechariah and Elizabeth were also very old, and they had no children.

One day Zechariah was to do his job as a priest and go into the temple of the Lord. As Zechariah entered the Lord's Temple (a very important and serious job), lots of people were outside the temple praying to the Lord. The Lord's Temple had many rooms, but the most important room was very dark and had only a little bit of light. That is where Zechariah was. Zechariah was there burning incense; this means he was burning different things to make the room smell very nice. While Zechariah was burning incense an angel suddenly appeared! The angel was bright, and Zechariah was afraid and fell before the angel. The angel said to Zechariah, "Don't be afraid! Your prayer for a child has been heard and Elizabeth will have a son and you will call him John." The angel continued to tell Zechariah, "You, Elizabeth and many people will be full of joy and happiness at his birth. John will do great things for the Lord." Then the angel told Zechariah something very, very important, "John will turn many of God's people back to Him! John will have the Spirit of God in him! John will prepare everyone for the coming of the Lord!"

Zechariah could not believe the angel's words. He even asked the angel, "How can I know this to be true? I am old, and so is Elizabeth, we can't have any kids!" The angel was upset with Zechariah. The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to bring you this good news. Because you do not believe me, you will not be able to speak until John is born." The angel then disappeared, and John was alone and could not say one word. Zechariah left the temple and went outside to see all those who were praying. The people had wondered what took so long, so when Zechariah came out of the temple they rushed to him. Many asked what happened or if he was okay, but Zechariah could not say one word to them.

Soon after, Elizabeth became pregnant just as Gabriel the angel had said.

### **Jesus Is Born!**

**[Teacher Note: We visit Christ's birth more fully during Advent, so we will not dive too deep into that part of the story]**

Through the whole Old Testament the world had been waiting for this moment. When the Promised One, the true King would come to rescue His people and the world from sin. The Promised One was Jesus! The Bible says the Old Testament had been telling of this moment to come, that this was God's greatest and best promise and now it had come true!

Jesus was here not as a grown adult ready to take over the world, but as a baby just as the angel Gabriel had told Mary and Joseph. This was an exciting time! As angels proclaimed the good news to shepherds in a field, and as wise men traveled from far away, God's promise was sleeping in a manger.

### **Jesus Presented at The Temple**

After some time, Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem to the Temple. They did this because of what was written long ago in the days of Moses. Newborn babies were to be presented to the Lord at the Temple, and a sacrifice was to be given by the parents to the Lord. As Mary and Joseph make their way to the Temple, an elderly man named Simeon runs up to them with much joy!

The Bible tells us Simeon was a righteous man which means he trusted and obeyed the Lord. Simeon had been waiting a very long time for Jesus. When Joseph and Mary entered the Temple with Jesus, the Bible tells us the Holy Spirit came upon Simeon and guided him to Joseph, Mary and Jesus. Simeon was so excited to see Jesus. Simeon had read that Jesus would be the One to save God's people and to make all things right again. As Simeon held baby Jesus in his arms, he looked up to heaven and praised God. The Bible tells us Simeon's prayer: "Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant, die in peace as you said. I have seen your Salvation with my own eyes. You prepared him before all people. He is a light for all to see. He will bring honor to your people, the Israelites." Joseph and Mary could not believe the words of Simeon.

As soon as Simeon returned baby Jesus to Mary's arms, a lady named Anna came running up too. She was old just like Simeon and had waited many, many years to see the Promised One, Jesus. The Bible tells us Anna worshipped at the Lord's Temple day and night. Anna praised the Lord for sending Jesus! She told everyone she saw at the Temple about Jesus and how He would rescue them from their sins.

### **Conclusion**

After four-hundred years of silence, God spoke to His people once again! People had waited for a very long time to hear from God, this at times made them sad or angry, but He finally spoke to them once again. Not only did God speak to His people once again, he did something even greater – He sent the Promised One, Jesus, His Own Son! Jesus would come to rescue God's people from sin and He would make everything right again. Just like Simeon and Anna in the Temple, we can be joyful to know that the Lord has come!