



Zechariah Prophecies About Jesus

Luke 1:68-79

First- and second-graders have a special desire to know they're loved no matter what. It's common for a child who's misbehaved to ask, "Do you still love me?" or to stretch out arms for a hug. Children need acceptance even, and especially, when they do wrong. Use this lesson to comfort children, helping them know that God didn't reject a world full of sin; he sent his Son to save the world and show unconditional love.



► Bible Point

The world needs Jesus.

Key Verse

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will thank God for sending his Son, Jesus, and will tell others about Jesus' forgiveness.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	A World Without Words <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game without talking.		
2 Bible Exploration	Zechariah Prophecies <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Complete silent activities while learning about Zechariah.	Bible, My Bible Fun, CD player, colored pencils, marker, paper Teacher Pack: CD	Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
	Zechariah's Song <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Hear what happened to Zechariah, and learn the Key Verse through song.	Bible, CD player, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	The Rising Sun <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make rising-sun crafts to remind them of the Bible passage.	My Bible Fun, 2 paper plates per child, markers, yellow and orange construction paper, tape, stapler, scissors	Cut three 6x1-inch yellow paper strips and three 6x1-inch orange paper strips per child.
	Sunshine Prayers <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Thank God for sending Jesus.	suns from "The Rising Sun" activity	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun, pens	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



1 GETTING STARTED

A World Without Words

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Today we'll hear about a unique situation. Let's play a game to help us think about the people in the Bible who were part of that situation.**

Invite one child to lead your group in a task. Share about the task with only that child, and then have him or her attempt, without speaking, to get the rest of the group to do the task. Avoid helping the child. After the group catches on and follows along, allow the first person who caught on to lead a new task. Play until everyone has had a chance to lead. If you have a large group, have pairs or groups of children lead the tasks together. Here are some task ideas: take off their shoes, walk to the restroom in a single-file line, clean an area of your room, sit on the floor crisscross applesauce, or show their age by putting up that many fingers.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to try to tell everyone something without talking?**
- **Explain whether it was easier for you to act or to guess.**
- **Explain why you might be frustrated if you had amazing news but you couldn't talk.**

Say: **Today we'll read in the Bible about a man who had really exciting news but lost his ability to talk. We'll learn how he communicated and the amazing things he said once he could talk again, and we'll learn what all that has to do with Jesus. Let's learn about that man right now.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Zechariah Prophecies

What You'll Do

Gather the children in a circle. Say: **Today we'll hear about a man named Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth. Zechariah lost his ability to talk. Let's pretend that you can't talk. Whenever I ask you to do something, you'll have to do it without talking.** Check for understanding. The children won't talk at all until you tell them to at the end of the activity.

Say: **Let's practice a little bit before we begin our activity. Show me how you might try to communicate with someone if you didn't have your voice.** Let children respond without talking.

Open your Bible to Luke 1:68-79, and show kids the passage. Say: **Zechariah and Elizabeth were very old. Let's walk around the room one time as if we were very, very old. Remember, no talking!** Let the children pretend to be old as you lead them around the room.

Give each child a Lesson 2 My Bible Fun page, and point out the "Show Me!" activity. Set out colored pencils.

Say: **Even though Zechariah and Elizabeth were married for many years, they had no children. That made them sad. Draw sad mouths on Zechariah and Elizabeth in the top picture on your page.** Allow time. Remind children to be silent for the activity.

Say: **Zechariah was a priest, and he worked at the Temple. One day he went into the Temple alone to burn incense because that was part of his job. While he was inside the Temple, an amazing thing happened—an angel appeared to Zechariah! Show me your best surprised face!** Pause to let children respond.

Say: **The Bible tells us what was said between the angel and Zechariah that day. Let's listen.** Play "Zechariah and Gabriel" (track 2 on the CD).

Say: **The angel's words came true. From that moment on, Zechariah couldn't talk. He couldn't tell the people what happened to him. He had to try to tell them in other ways.**

Have kids form pairs. Tell kids to think of one piece of important news they'd like to tell their partners. For example, a partner might want to say that he has a new puppy or that she has a baby brother. Explain that partners must try to convey the news to each other without speaking; they may only communicate in ways other than talking or whispering.

Give kids a few minutes to try to convey their news. Then let partners whisper to each other what they were trying to communicate. Then gather everyone back together.



Zechariah Prophecies Supplies

Bible
My Bible Fun
CD player
colored pencils
marker
paper

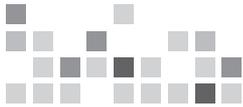
Teacher Pack

CD: "Zechariah and Gabriel" (track 2)

Zechariah Prophecies Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.





Say: **Zechariah couldn't speak during the whole time he and Elizabeth were waiting for their baby. Several months later, when Elizabeth had a baby boy as the angel had said, Zechariah and Elizabeth were very happy. Draw smiles on Zechariah and Elizabeth on the bottom of your My Bible Fun page. Allow time.**

Say: **Friends and family came to see the baby. They wanted Elizabeth to name him Zechariah like his father, but Elizabeth said she wanted to name him John. The friends couldn't believe it because no one in Elizabeth's family was named John. When they asked Zechariah what he wanted to name the baby, Zechariah asked for a writing tablet to give them his answer. Zechariah wrote, "His name is John." Show me how you can write the same thing that Zechariah wrote. On the picture of the baby, write "John." Write "John" in large letters on a piece of paper so the children can see how to write it. Then allow time for children to copy the word onto baby John.**

Say: **As soon as Zechariah named the baby John, God made it so he could talk again. That means all of you can talk again in a moment. When I say the baby's name aloud, call out the first thing you want to say after not talking for so long. Ready?** Check that children understand that they'll call out a word or a cheer as soon as you say Zechariah and Elizabeth's baby's name. Then say: **The baby's name was John!** Let kids respond with shouts and cheers.

Say: **Zechariah was very happy, and right away he began to praise God!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What were you thinking and feeling as you had to keep silent through our entire activity?**
- **Tell about a time you had to stay really quiet at home or at school.**
- **Why do you want to tell others when you have great news?**

Say: **Zechariah had great news, but he couldn't talk about it until his baby was born and he named the baby John. It must've been pretty hard not to be able to talk for all that time. And Zechariah had even more good news he couldn't share—his baby was the one who would prepare people for Jesus. John would tell everyone that**
► THE WORLD NEEDS JESUS. Let's hear more about that.

Zechariah's Song

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **The Bible tells us that Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and that he prophesied about his new baby and Jesus. *Prophesied* means that God gave him the words to tell about the future. Let's listen to what Zechariah prophesied about Jesus.**

Play "Zechariah's Song, Part 1" (track 3 on the CD).

Zechariah's Song Supplies

Bible
 CD player
 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Zechariah's Song, Part 1" (track 3);
 "Zechariah's Song, Part 2" (track 4);
 "To Save the World Through Him" (John 3:17) (track 5)



Say: **The Bible calls Zechariah’s message a song. Zechariah was joyful about God’s message, which said that Jesus was coming to save his people. That’s just what our Key Verse for today says. Let’s look at our verse right now.** Open your Bible to John 3:17, and show kids the verse. Then read the verse aloud for the kids: **“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him” (John 3:17).** Have kids repeat the verse with you several times.

Say: **This verse says that God didn’t send Jesus into the world to punish the world. God sent Jesus to save the world. Now that’s something to sing about—Jesus came to save all of us! Often when people are excited about good news, they sing, like Zechariah’s song we just heard. Let’s sing a song that tells our Key Verse.**

Hand out the lyrics pages. Then play “To Save the World Through Him” (John 3:17) (track 5 on the CD). If time allows, play the song a second time to help the children learn the Key Verse.



**For God did not send his Son into the world
To condemn the world.
For God did not send his Son into the world
To condemn the world, oh no,**

**But to save the world through him,
But to save the world through him.
For God did not send his Son into the world
To condemn the world.**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

“To Save the World Through Him” (John 3:17) by Dean-o. © 2003, 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Our Bible Point tells us that ► THE WORLD NEEDS JESUS. God sent Jesus to save the world from sin. Let’s listen to some more of what Zechariah said about his new baby and about Jesus.**

Play “Zechariah’s Song, Part 2” (track 4 the CD).

Say: **God told Zechariah that his son, John, would prepare the way for Jesus. God had a really special plan, and he involved people in his plan—like Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John.**

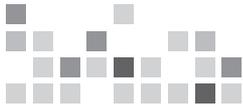
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What’s so great about knowing that God involves people in his plan?**
- **What are some special things about you that God could use to let others know about Jesus?**





The Rising Sun Supplies

My Bible Fun
2 paper plates per child
markers
yellow and orange
construction paper
tape
stapler
scissors

The Rising Sun Easy Prep

Cut three 6x1-inch
yellow paper strips and
three 6x1-inch orange
paper strips per child.

Say: **Zechariah said that his son, John, would prepare the way for Jesus. He said that John would prepare people's hearts for Jesus. God can use you, too. ► THE WORLD NEEDS JESUS, and you can share with people about Jesus, like John did. John was excited about Jesus' arrival because John knew that Jesus would be a light to the world. Let's make a craft to help us remember that Jesus is a light to the world.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

The Rising Sun

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Zechariah called Jesus the rising sun from heaven. Close your eyes. Pause. Think about when the sun comes up in the morning. Pause. When the sun comes up, the darkness goes away. The sun's light helps us see. Imagine for a moment a dark world becoming light. Pause for five seconds.**

Say: **Jesus is called a light because he shows people the way to heaven. He came to save us from our sins; he shows us how to live for God.**

Give each child two paper plates and the colored strips you cut ahead of time.

Say: **Let's make our own rising suns to remind us that Zechariah said Jesus would be the rising sun to shine the light and lead us to heaven.**

Let the children color the backs of both paper plates to look like the sun. Help them each write "Jesus" on one plate and then tape the strips of yellow and orange paper around the edge of one paper plate to look like rays of the sun.





Show the children how to match the paper plates together so the paper strips are sandwiched in between and the sunshine artwork shows on the outside of each. Staple the plates together.

Say: **When you take your rising suns home today, use them to help you remember that ► THE WORLD NEEDS JESUS. Before we go, let's say a sunshine prayer to thank God for sending Jesus.**

Sunshine Prayers

What You'll Do

Have kids hold their suns and sit in a circle.

Say: **We're going to say a fun circle prayer using our rising suns. Just as the sun rises every morning, each of us is going to rise and say thank you to God for sending Jesus. When it's your turn, stand up, hold your sun high in the air, and say, "Thank you, God, for sending Jesus!"** Tell children they can add in other things they're thankful for on their turn if they want to.

Go around the circle, letting each child stand and say the prayer. Then close by thanking God for loving all the children enough to send his Son to save them.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► THE WORLD NEEDS JESUS.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Pray and thank God for his Son, Jesus, who died for our sins so we can be forgiven.**
- **Tell a friend about Jesus, and ask if he or she would like to pray with you.**
- **Hang your rising sun above your bed, remembering each time you see it that Jesus is the Savior and forgiver of our sins—and we all need him!**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.



Sunshine Prayers Supplies

.....
suns from "The Rising Sun" activity

Daily Challenges Supplies

.....
My Bible Fun pens





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Everyone needs Jesus. Let's share with others that ► THE WORLD NEEDS JESUS by following through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how the world needs Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for Jesus. Give children a moment to talk to God about why they need Jesus. Then close the prayer. Pray: **God, thank you that you love us so much. We know we need Jesus so that we can be friends with you. Thank you for forgiving us through Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Lyrics ■■■■

To Save the World Through Him

(John 3:17)

For God did not send his Son into the world
To condemn the world.

For God did not send his Son into the world
To condemn the world, oh no,

But to save the world through him,
But to save the world through him.
For God did not send his Son into the world
To condemn the world.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"To Save the World Through Him" (John 3:17) by Dean-o. © 2003, 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



OK
TO COPY



