



Zechariah Prophecies About Jesus Luke 1:68-79

Preschoolers are anxious to try new things and learn new skills. It's a regular occurrence in their lives to grow in these ways, but as they learn they need assistance. Because of their awareness of their need for help, they'll easily be able to identify with our need for Jesus. Use this lesson to help preschoolers understand that just as they need the assistance of parents and other adults, they also need Jesus to help them learn and grow.



► **Bible Point**
We need Jesus.

Key Verse

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will understand that they need Jesus' forgiveness.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	signal, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	A Special Gift for Us Unwrap a gift, and discover that Jesus is God's special gift to us.	Bible, bookmark, 1 box with lid, wrapping paper, scissors, tape, label, pen	Use the gift-wrapped box from last week, or gift-wrap a box so that the lid can be removed. Place a label on the gift box that says "To the children in [leader's name]'s group." Bookmark Isaiah 9:6 in your Bible, and put your Bible inside the box.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo needs help using scissors.	CD player, Theo puppet, newspaper with ads, child-safe scissors, string Teacher Pack: CD	Tie the scissors to one of Theo's paws. Tie the newspaper to the other paw.
	Bible Time: God Sends a Helper Use rhythm instruments to celebrate the baby's birth.	Bible, CD player, items that can be used as instruments Teacher Pack: CD	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Jesus Guides Us Create finger footprints to follow Jesus' path.</p>	My Bible Hugs, pen, washable ink pads, markers (optional), wet wipes	Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Happy Snacks Build edible happy faces in response to Jesus' help.</p>	softened cream cheese, round crackers, raisins, plastic spoons, paper plates, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: Jesus Guides Our Way Build a path of blocks, and watch who leads the way.</p>	building blocks, toy figures	
	<p>Center 4: Helping-Hand Wands Make helping-hand wands, and learn a song.</p>	construction paper, markers, child-safe scissors, tape, 2 plastic straws per child	
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs, pens	
	<p>Action Prayer Help each other know that we all need Jesus in prayer.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

signal

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Everybody Ought to Come" (track 3), "All His Promises" (Psalm 145:13b) (track 18)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Everybody Ought to Come" (track 3 on the CD) to the tune of "Everybody Ought to Know." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Everybody ought to come,** (*motion with hand to come*)

Everybody ought to come, (*motion with hand to come*)

Everybody ought to come (*motion with hand to come*)

To church with us.

At church, we learn (*make a steeple with hands*)

Of Jesus' love. (*put arm around a friend*)

At church, we learn (*make a steeple with hands*)

Of Jesus' love. (*all kids connect arms around each other*)

(Repeat 3x.)

Say: **We want everyone to come to church so they can learn about Jesus. Today we get to hear why ► WE NEED JESUS. Let's sing one more song about God's love.**

Lead children in singing "All His Promises" (Psalm 145:13b) (track 18 on the CD). Have children hold hands in a circle as they sing with you.

 (*Chorus*)

The Lord is faithful,

The Lord is faithful

To all his promises

(All his promises),

To all his promises

(All his promises).

The Lord is loving,

The Lord is loving

Toward all he has made

(All he has made),

To all he has made.





Your kingdom is forever.
You're powerful forever.
You hold the world up every day.
You always do whatever you say.

(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)

The Lord is faithful,
The Lord is faithful.

"All His Promises" (Psalm 145:13b) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Jesus loves you, and Jesus loves me. Just like our last song said, we can know he's always there when we need him. And that's a good thing because ► WE NEED JESUS all the time. Let's learn more about what it means that we need Jesus.**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

A Special Gift for Us

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Show the wrapped box. Say: **Look at this wonderful box I found. And look! It has a label on it. It says "To the children in [leader's name]'s group. That's us!**

Have children pass the box around the circle, just looking at the outside of the box. Then let children help you open the box and take out the Bible. Say: **Our Key Verse is marked here.** Open your Bible to Isaiah 9:6, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we're learning that ► WE NEED JESUS. That's why God sent him to this world. Our Key Verse says, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). This means that Jesus was born for us. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **To us Jesus is born (Isaiah 9:6).**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were you thinking when you heard the gift was for us?
- What do you think about Jesus being born for us, too?



A Special Gift for Us Supplies

- Bible
- bookmark
- 1 box with lid
- wrapping paper
- scissors
- tape
- label
- pen

A Special Gift for Us Easy Prep

Use the gift-wrapped box from last week, or gift-wrap a box so that the lid can be removed. Place a label on the gift box that says "To the children in [leader's name]'s group." Bookmark Isaiah 9:6 in your Bible, and put your Bible inside the box.





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
newspaper with ads
child-safe scissors
string

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 2)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie the scissors to one of Theo's paws. Tie the newspaper to the other paw.

Say: **God sent Jesus for us because he knew that ► WE NEED JESUS. Every person in the world needs Jesus so we can be friends with God and live in heaven with him forever. And we need Jesus' help while we live on earth. Let's learn more about why ► WE NEED JESUS.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **To us Jesus is born (Isaiah 9:6).** Save the wrapped box and lid for next week's lesson.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Good morning, Theo. Thanks for coming to visit today. What are you doing with a pair of scissors?

Theo: I want to cut something out of this paper!

Teacher: Hmm. What is it?

Theo: It's a coupon, but I'm having trouble! I'm not very good at cutting yet.

Teacher: We'd be glad to help! (*Take the newspaper and scissors, and have a child help you cut out the coupon.*) There you go.

Theo: Thanks!

Teacher: You're welcome. We're happy to help you, Theo. We all need help at times. It's nice to have people who can help you do things, isn't it?

Theo: It sure is.

Teacher: Today we're learning that ► **WE NEED JESUS.** Jesus was born so that he could come to earth and help us know more about God. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today. (*Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► WE NEED JESUS.*)

Theo: I'm so happy you have Jesus to help you. I bet Jesus helps you all a lot! And thank you for helping me today.

Teacher: I'm glad we could help you! Have fun shopping, and we'll see you next week.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you needed help with something like Theo did.
- What are some ways Jesus can help you?



Say: **Theo needed help to do something he couldn't do all by himself. Sometimes we need help, too. ► WE NEED JESUS to help us learn and grow.**

Bible Time: God Sends a Helper

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Luke 1:68-79, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book. Pass out the items that can be used as instruments.

Say: **The Bible tells about a man named Zechariah. He worked in a church, and he prayed to God for help. Zechariah and his wife wanted a baby, but his wife was getting very old. One day God told Zechariah and his wife that they were going to have a baby! Let's celebrate with them now.** Encourage the children to make noises with their instruments and say "Thank you, God!"

Say: **All babies are special, but this was an extra-special baby. God told Zechariah and his wife to name their baby John. God also said that John would tell the people that Jesus was coming to save the world. Let's celebrate with Zechariah and his wife again because of their baby, John, who would help people get ready for Jesus!** Encourage the children to make noises with their instruments and say "Thank you, God!"

Say: **Zechariah loved God very much, so it made him very happy that his son would help people know that everyone needs Jesus. Zechariah knew he needed a savior, and he was thankful that he and his family could be used to help people know about Jesus. Let's listen to what Zechariah said when his son, John, was born.**

Each time Zechariah stops talking, we'll praise God with our instruments (make a beat on one of the instruments) and our voices as we shout "Thank you, God, for Jesus!" Let's practice. Lead children in practicing.

Play "Song of Zechariah" (track 5 on the CD). Lead children in using their instruments and saying "Thank you, God, for Jesus!" as they listen to the track.

Say: **Zechariah was so happy. He had a new baby, and he knew that his baby would grow up and help people get ready for Jesus. He was so happy that Jesus was finally coming to save everyone who believes in him. He knew that he needed Jesus, all the people living during his time needed Jesus, and ► WE NEED JESUS, too.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

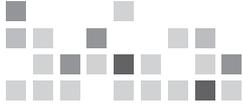
- Tell about a time you were really excited about something.
- Why can you be excited about Jesus?



Bible Time: God Sends a Helper Supplies

-
- Bible
 - CD player
 - items that can be used as instruments
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "Song of Zechariah" (track 5)





Center 1: Jesus Guides Us Supplies

My Bible Hugs pen
washable ink pads
markers (optional)
wet wipes

Center 1: Jesus Guides Us Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.

Say: **We can all be as excited as Zechariah was because just like him, ► WE NEED JESUS. All people who have ever lived need Jesus so they can be forgiven and live with God forever. Let's think more about why ► WE NEED JESUS.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ CENTER 1:

Jesus Guides Us

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we're learning that ► WE NEED JESUS. Before Jesus was born, the people knew they needed God to send someone to help and save them. So when God sent his Son, Jesus, the people were excited about him.**

Hand out the Lesson 2 My Bible Hugs pages. Say: **Zechariah knew that Jesus would help and guide everyone who believes in him. Point out the house at the bottom of the My Bible Hugs pages. Let's pretend that's where you live.**

Point out the stable at the top of the page. Say: **Jesus was born in a stable—that was a place where animals lived. Let's make footsteps on the path to show us going from where we live to the stable where Jesus was born.**

Show the children how to press their index and middle fingers onto the ink pad and walk their fingers up the path to the stable. As the children make finger footsteps along the path, talk about how Jesus can help lead the way. Children might mention examples such as helping us get along with brothers, sisters, and friends.

Give children each a wet wipe to clean their fingers. As an option, provide markers for children to color in the landscape along the path.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you needed help going somewhere or doing something.
- What are some ways you can go to Jesus when you need help?





Say: **God sent Jesus to help us. He knows that ► WE NEED JESUS. Jesus loves us so much, and he wants to help us. We can always go to Jesus for help, and he'll be there for us.**

CENTER 2:

Happy Snacks

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **We can be so happy and joyful that God sent Jesus, just like Zechariah was! ► WE NEED JESUS just as much as Zechariah did. Let's make a snack to show excited faces.**

Give each child one or two round crackers, a plastic spoon, and a handful of raisins on a paper plate. Have children spread cream cheese on the crackers and then use raisins to make a happy face.

Say: **When I'm having a hard time and need help, I know Jesus is there to help me. That makes me feel happy inside.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What makes you feel happy inside like Zechariah was?
- What about Jesus makes you happy?

Say: **Zechariah waited a long time for God to send Jesus. Zechariah knew he needed Jesus. He was happy that Jesus was going to save him from his sins and bad choices he had made. ► WE NEED JESUS, too!** Invite one child to pray for the snack.

CENTER 3:

Jesus Guides Our Way

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Set out building blocks and toy figures. Say: **Today we're learning that ► WE NEED JESUS. Jesus helps lead us in the right direction. He knows what's best for us, so we can always follow him. Let's build pathways to think about how Jesus leads us.** Encourage children to build paths for the figures to walk along.

When children are done building, have one child use a toy figure to represent Jesus and lead other figures along the pathway. Remind the children that ► **WE NEED JESUS** to guide our way.



Center 2: Happy Snacks Supplies

-
- softened cream cheese
 - round crackers
 - raisins
 - plastic spoons
 - paper plates
 - antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: Jesus Guides Our Way Supplies

-
- building blocks
 - toy figures





Center 4: Helping- Hand Wands Supplies

construction paper
markers
child-safe scissors
tape
2 plastic straws per
child

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you like or not like about following our pretend Jesus?
- Why is following Jesus the best way to go?
- What are some ways you can follow Jesus this week?

Say: **We need Jesus to help us know where to go and what to do in life. He's God and he loves us, so we can always know it's the best way when we follow him.**

■ CENTER 4:

Helping-Hand Wands



■ **Tip** Save time making paper hands by tracing one child's hand and stacking papers to cut out several hands at once. Or trace every child's hand, but avoid cutting around all the fingers.

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **People all over the world need Jesus. By using helping hands, we can show others that they need Jesus just as much as ► WE NEED JESUS. Let's make something to help us remember that.**



Have children place their hands palm-side down on the construction paper. Trace around each hand with a marker. Let them cut out their handprints, or assist as needed. Tape the base of one palm to a straw so that most of the handprint can flap freely. Repeat so that each child has two wands. Show kids how to wave the wands in the air.

Lead children in waving their wands and singing "Jesus Guides Us" (not on the CD) to the tune of "London Bridge."





 Jesus guides us on our way,
On our way, on our way.
Jesus helps us every day,
We need Jesus!

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some ways you can tell others about Jesus?

Say: **Everyone needs help sometimes. God sent his Son, Jesus, to help us every day. ► WE NEED JESUS.** Let's ask Jesus for help this week, and let's tell others that they need Jesus, too.

5 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► WE NEED JESUS.** I would like each of you to choose a way to remember that you need Jesus this week.

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Before going to bed each night this week, thank God for sending Jesus to help you be brave when you're scared of the dark.**
- **Look for people who need help this week. Do what you can to help them, and then tell them how Jesus can help them.**

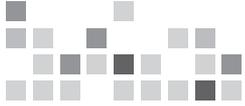
Say: **If you want to pray before bed, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to help others, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!



**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Hugs
pens





Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Invite each child to share a reason he or she needs Jesus. After each child shares, have all the children say, “We all need Jesus,” and pat that child on the back. Then close the prayer: **Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to take care of us, to guide us, and to help us be friends with you. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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