

CURRICULUM
SAMPLE



New Testament Bible Stories for Young Children

by Edith Carlson and Sally Michael

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PREFACE

Let the Little Children Come to Me

*Jesus said,
"Let the little children come to me,
and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven
belongs to such as these."*

Matthew 19:14

*"And whoever welcomes
a little child
like this
in my name
welcomes me."*

Matthew 18:5

If we love God, we will love the things that God loves. When Jesus was on earth, he said, *"Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me; for he who is least among you all is the one who is great"* (Luke 9:48). Jesus loved children. In Mark we read that *"he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them"* (Mark 10:16). If we love God we will welcome little children into our fellowship (Matthew 18:5).

It is both an awesome privilege and an awesome responsibility to lead children to Jesus. It is an awesome privilege because in so doing we are touching the heart of God. It is an awesome responsibility because, *"It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to stumble"* (Luke 17:2).

To nurture the faith of children through formal teaching, informal teaching, or modeling the life of God in you is a high calling. It is not something that should be done carelessly, haphazardly, or half-heartedly. There are great rewards for diligence and grave consequences for negligence.

In taking this task seriously, you may find yourself lying awake at night seeking from God the heart and wisdom to teach His children; you will find faith growing in your heart as you wrestle to understand and embrace the Word of God; you will find yourself driven to your knees continually as you struggle with your own limitations and sinfulness, and the limitations and sinfulness of your students; and you will see God glorified.

God bless you as you undertake this great privilege and responsibility,

A Blessing on You

*Unto Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly
beyond all that we ask or think,
according to the power that works within us,
and beside us,
and above us,
and beneath us,
and all around us,
to Him be the glory in your life
in the church
and in Christ Jesus,
to all generations forever and ever.
Amen!*

Scripture: Luke 1:5-25

Key Themes

- 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 is faithful; He always does what He says He will do
He keeps His promises and fulfills His prophecies.
- Jesus Christ is God
vv. 16-17, John prepares God's people for the Lord, Jesus

Hooks

HOOK:
(Show a family picture—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.

Looks:

LOOK:

(Show the coloring page for Lesson 65.)

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:

(Show the coloring page for Lesson 65.)

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.

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-38

Key Themes

- God keeps His promises
v. 7, Jesus is born as God foretold; vv. 16-17, the shepherds found Jesus just as the angels had told them; vv. 26-28, Simeon lived long enough to see Jesus as God has promised him
- God communicates with man
Angels appeared to the shepherds; Simeon's prophecy
- Jesus' coming glorifies God
- Faith pleases God
Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to be circumcised and offered a sacrifice as God commanded Moses
- God's salvation in Jesus is for all peoples
v. 10, 30-32
- God's salvation in Jesus is the source of great joy
v. 10

Hooks

HOOK:

(Show a suitcase or a duffel bag.) What is this? When do you use it? Would you like to hear a story from the Bible about two people who went on a trip?

Looks

LOOK:

(Show the coloring book picture for Lesson 67.) Does everybody know who this mommy and baby are?

What did the angels say about this baby that had been born? Who was He? Let's look for the answer in the Bible. (Read Luke 2:10-11 to them to refresh their memories if they don't remember.)

Long ago God had promised to send a Savior to His people – someone who would take away their sins.

God's people had been waiting for the Savior for a long time.

Simeon and Anna were waiting. How long do you think they may have waited?

Do you think it was easy for them to wait? Is it easy for you to wait?

Who had promised to send a Savior? Does God always do what He says? [Yes, God always keeps His promises.]

Did God keep His promise to Simeon?

Did God keep His promise to send a Savior?

Will God keep His promises to you?

LOOK:

(Show the coloring book picture for Lesson 67. Point to Jesus.) Who is this? (Point to Mary.) And who is this?

What was the good news of great joy the angels told the shepherds? Yes, God had sent the Savior.

Was the good news just for the shepherds? Who was the good news for? (Read Luke 2:10-11 if the children need help)

Does that mean the good news is for you and me, too?

Why is it good news for you that God has sent the Savior? (Review last week's Foundation Verse – John 3:16)

God showed His great love by sending His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.

He made a way for us to know Him, to have our sins forgiven, and to live forever in heaven.

(You may want to end by working on this week's verse— Psalm 100:1-2. Then apply it by praising God for sending Jesus to be our Savior. You may also want to praise God by clapping, shouting, or singing a joyful song such as "Praise Him, Praise Him" or the chorus from "O Come All Ye Faithful" – O come, let us adore Him.)

Tell the Next Generation



The Coming of the Savior is Announced

Scripture:

Luke 1:26-80; Matthew 1:18-25

What does this say about God and man?

- God is faithful; He always does what He says
Luke 1:26-36, it was now time for God to fulfill His promises about the Deliverer
Luke 1: 57, God fulfilled His promise to Zechariah and John was born
Matthew 1:22, God fulfills all His prophecies
- God communicates with man
- God is sovereign
He chose Mary to be the mother of the Deliverer
- God is loving, merciful, and gracious
Jesus would deliver sinners from the punishment they deserved
- Jesus Christ is God
Luke 1:32, the Son of God; Luke 1:35, no human father
- Jesus Christ is man
He was Mary's son
- Jesus Christ is holy and righteous
Because He is God's Son, He did not inherit Adam's sinful nature
- God is all-powerful
Even Mary, a virgin, would have a child and Elizabeth conceived in her old age; Luke 1:37, nothing is impossible with God
- Man must have faith in order to please God and to be saved
Luke 1:38, Mary trusted in the Lord and accepted God's will for her to be the mother of the Savior
- Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself
Matthew 1:21
- Jesus will reign forever
Luke 1:33

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * God told Joseph that Jesus would save His people from their sins. Why do we need to be saved from our sins? Can we save ourselves? (No, only God can save us.)
- * Do you have any sins you want to ask God to save you from? Pray together.



The coming of the Savior
is announced