

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for



Life of Christ

Elizabeth & Zechariah

Luke 1:5-25; 57-66

Younger Verse

We can depend on God to forgive us. 1st John 1:9

Older Verse

If we tell Him our sins, He is faithful and we can depend on Him to forgive us of our sins. He will make our lives clean from all sin. 1st John 1:9 NLV

Advent Time

Today is the third day of advent. Share how advent is a way to look forward to Jesus' birth. The third week of advent celebrates the Shepherds hearing the "Good News." Let the kids help in the special time.

Welcome Time

How does it feel to have to wait for Christmas especially when you see gifts under the tree? It takes a lot of patience not to peek! Let's see how the couple in today's lesson had to have patience.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Zechariah was a priest. His wife was named Elizabeth. They were older people and they had no children.

Once, Zechariah was chosen to go into the church temple of God and burn incense. When he did this, all the people were praying outside.

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to him. When Zechariah saw him, he was scared and fearful. But the angel told him not to be afraid. Zechariah did not need to be afraid of a message from God because God is love. He is trustworthy and would never hurt us. Whatever God teaches us, is for our good. He wants to help us and bring glory to His name.

The angel told Zechariah that his prayers had been answered. He and Elizabeth would have a child and name him John. John would later help many people come back to God.

Zechariah was so confused. He couldn't believe what he was hearing. He asked the angel how this could be since they were so old. The angel, who said his name was Gabriel, became offended at what Zechariah said. He told him that he would not be able to speak until the baby was born. God shut Zechariah's mouth so that Zechariah could see God do a special miracle!

Teachers:

The names of Elizabeth and Zechariah may be spelled in different ways. Several different Bible translations use different spelling variations.

Lesson Goals

Explain how Elizabeth and Zechariah were peaceful even when difficult things happened
Tell how we can have real peace

Sure enough, when Zechariah came out of the temple, he could not speak. The people knew that something special had happened to him.

Shortly after this, Elizabeth became pregnant. She was so thankful for the baby. All during this time, Zechariah could not speak. Can you imagine how it must have felt—not to be able to talk for 9 whole months. That’s about the amount of time you spend in school each year!

During this time Zechariah had to be patient. He knew that He could trust God to keep His promise to make him talk again. He knew that when God promises something, it happens. He did not have to worry or be afraid. He knew that he had to wait patiently. And He knew that God would be glorified.

When John was born, the women that helped deliver the baby wanted to name the baby Zechariah, Jr. after his father. Elizabeth spoke up saying that they wanted to name him John. The people objected because they had no relatives with that name. Then they made signs to let Zechariah tell them what the name should be. To their surprise, he wrote down the name John. Immediately, Zechariah could speak again because he obeyed God and named his son John. Everyone was filled with joy and excitement! They knew that God’s hand was on this family.

Zechariah and Elizabeth had to be patient as they waited for God to keep His promise of sending them a son. They had a peace and calmness because they knew that God would keep His promise. The Bible also promised that Jesus would come. It tells us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. This peace comes because we trust Jesus and know that He will always watch over us and take care of us. Would you like this peace? He wants to give this peace to everyone that wants it. It is a free gift that He gives. It’s free because Jesus paid the price for it. Jesus did this by dying on a cross for all our bad things. He made a way for us to be clean—by asking Him to come into our lives and clean up all our bad stuff. He makes us white as snow and ready to come to God. If you would like to ask Jesus to come into your life, talk to us today.

Learning Activities

Do activities that will help the kids grasp what it means to have patience.

Memory Verse Activities

Play memory verse volleyball. Set up two sides. Using a balloon, volley the ball back and forth. When a team misses the balloon, they must quote the verse. Do this until the kids know the verse. Talk about how Elizabeth and Zechariah were patient too.

Prayer Time

Zechariah and Elizabeth prayed and God heard their prayer for a baby. God listens when we pray. He wants to help us and do great things for us. Pray together thanking God for caring and listening to our prayers.

Snack Time/CleanUp

See if the kids can practice being silent for 1 minute (instead of 9 months). It may be fun to see how long they can remain silent! Enjoy snacks too.

Planning for Dec. 19th
Jesus is Born
Luke 2:1-7

Preschool Lesson
For
Elizabeth and Zechariah

Zechariah was a priest. His wife was named Elizabeth. They were older people and they had no children.

Once, Zechariah was chosen to go into the church temple of God and burn incense. When he did this, all the people were praying outside.

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to him. When Zechariah saw him, he was scared and fearful. (Make a sound like you are scared or afraid) But the angel told him not to be afraid. We don't have to be afraid of God. He loves us and wants the best for us!

The angel told Zechariah that his prayers had been answered. He and Elizabeth would have a child and name him John. John would later help many people come back to God.

Zechariah was so confused. He couldn't believe what he was hearing. He asked the angel how this could be since they were so old. The angel, who said his name was Gabriel, became offended at what Zechariah said. He told him that he would not be able to speak until the baby was born.

Sure enough, when Zechariah came out of the temple, he could not speak. (Close your mouth and act like you cannot talk) The people knew that something special had happened to him.

Shortly after this, Elizabeth became pregnant. She was so thankful for the baby. All during this time, Zechariah could not speak. Can you imagine how it must have felt—not to be able to talk for a long time!

During this time Zechariah had to be patient. He knew that He could trust God to keep His promise to make him talk again. He knew that when God promises something, it happens. He did not have to worry or be afraid. He knew that he had to wait patiently.

When John was born, the women that helped deliver the baby wanted to name the baby Zechariah, Jr. after his father. Elizabeth spoke up saying that they wanted to name him John. The people objected because they had no relatives with that name. Then they made signs to let Zechariah tell them what the name should be. To their surprise, he wrote down the name John. Immediately, Zechariah could speak again. Everyone was filled with joy and excitement! (Hurray!—blow party horns etc.)

Thank God for keeping His promises. Ask Him to help us be patient this week.

Hands-On Activities
For
Elizabeth and Zechariah

Zechariah had to talk with his hands or write on a piece of paper. Play charades with the kids. Divide into 2 groups. Let each group act out a Bible person or situation while the other group tries to guess. Remember—no talking!

Try to act out today's story with no talking (or act it out with speaking parts, remembering that Zechariah must be quiet after he meets the angel.)

Like Zechariah must have done, write out or draw the story! Take turns. It can be lots of fun for everyone.

As a Wednesday night project or after school activity, make a Jesse Tree. Each day (or time you meet) add an ornament that symbolizes an event from the Bible. The packet will be available December 1st.