

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 2: Angel Visits (Luke 1:5-38)

To the Teacher:

The Christmas season is a time kids are looking forward to all kinds of things; presents, treats, time with family, time off from school. This story takes us to a time when God's people were looking forward to His rescue and salvation. Still, when the time had come for this news, it was almost too good to be true. As a teacher, you have the opportunity to help kids see what good news we have in Jesus, how he's better than everything else, and to show them what it looks like to believe the news of his salvation.

- **Big Idea:** God sends good news to all... but some find it hard to believe.
- **Question:** Have you ever heard something that sounded too good to be true? What was it?
- **Starter:** 'Can You Believe It?'
Start the lesson by reading off unbelievable facts and ask the kids to guess whether each one is true or false. Here are some facts you can use:
 - Violin strings re made from 5,000 strands of spider silk
 - It rains diamonds on Jupiter
 - A cloud typically weighs 1.1 million pounds
 - Snails can sleep for 3 years*Feel free to throw in some that aren't true - the point is not the validity of the statements but setting up a story of news which is hard to believe.*
- **Story:** from Luke 1:5-38
[READ]
Years and years had passed since God chose the people of Israel to be his representatives to all the other nations. During this time, his people were waiting for God to send the Rescuer he promised to heal the world, but often they failed to live the way God called them to. Because they failed to live in God's kingdom and tried to build their own, they were eventually taken over by the kingdom of Rome.
During the time Rome was in control, God sent an angel named Gabriel to two people with an incredible message of good news. The first was a man named Zechariah, who was a priest for God's people. He and his wife, Elizabeth, both followed God's ways but they were sad that they were getting very old and still had no children. The second was Elizabeth's cousin, Mary, who was only a young girl and had not yet been married.

When Gabriel appeared to Zechariah, Zechariah was afraid, but Gabriel told him not to fear. God had heard his prayers and was going to give he and Elizabeth a son, who they would name John. John was going to be a great man, filled with God's Spirit, to get God's people ready for the true King to come. Zechariah had a hard time believing this, so because he doubted the angel took away his voice so he could not speak until John was born.

When Gabriel appeared to Mary, she was confused, but Gabriel told her not to fear. God was very happy with her and was going to give her a son, even though she wasn't even married yet, whose name would be Jesus. Jesus would be the greatest of all, born to Mary by God's Spirit, and would bring God's kingdom and rule it forever. Mary wasn't sure how this could happen, but she believed God could do anything and was willing to do whatever God asked her to.

[Some Things to Point Out]

- Remind kids where we're at in the Story
 - Creation, Rebellion, *Promise*, Redemption, Church, Restoration
 - This is the moment right before Christ enters in - God's people have been waiting for God's *Promise* of Redemption to come
- Compare & Contrast Zechariah with Mary:
 - Gabriel talks to Zechariah about Israel's need to turn back to the Lord
 - Gabriel talks to Mary about God rescuing Israel from other kingdoms

Zechariah	Mary
Male, temple priest, respected leader	Young, poor, unwed girl
No children (old and barren)	No children (a virgin)
Gabriel visits	Gabriel visits
He is afraid	She is confused
Do not fear, your prayer is heard	Do not fear, you have found favor
You will have a son <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name him John • He will be great • Filled with Holy Spirit • Will prepare the people for the King 	You will have a son <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name him Jesus • He will be great • Son of the Most High • He will be King over all
How <i>can</i> I be sure? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asks for a sign • Questioning if it can happen 	How <i>will</i> this be? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seems to be asking how it will happen, not if it can
Loses ability to speak because of doubt	Encouraged for her faith

- **Prayer:**
God, the news of Jesus saving us and making everything right in the world is almost too good to be true... but it is true! Help us believe it. Fill us with your Spirit so we will trust you. In Jesus' name, amen.
- **Craft:**
Create a double-sided mask on a paper plate using a popsicle stick to hold it up to their face. Use [this pdf](#) for the mouth on each side. The zipper side symbolizes Zechariah's mouth being shut for unbelief, while the smiley face symbolizes the good news Mary received. The kids can draw in the rest of the face however they want.
- **BLESS Activity:**
For kids to do during the week
The angel brought a blessing from the Lord to Zechariah and Mary. Find a way to *Bless* somebody this week. You can draw a picture for someone, help your parents clean the house, or play with a kid at school you don't normally play with.