

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 3: Singing As A Good News Response (Luke 1:39-80)

Preschool Lesson

To the Teacher:

Sometimes when I'm eating really good food, I do a little happy dance while I'm eating. I don't even realize I'm doing it. There is something about joy and experiencing goodness that brings out a reaction. We are designed to enjoy good things. Our kids hear tons of stories from our culture about which things are good and worth responding to. This week, we look at the joyous good news that stirred Mary and Zechariah to a response of singing and praising God. Pray that our kids would be stirred by that same good news.

Big Idea and Missio Basic: God is good and good news of God's salvation fills our hearts with joy.

Starter Ideas: You may choose to set up all or some of these activity centers for the children to play with or do as they arrive. Help children with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

1. **Make Microphone:** Have the kids make and decorate a microphone. You can use objects like a styrofoam ball and an empty toilet paper roll as the handle ([like this](#) or [this](#)). Use this craft to talk about how Zechariah's voice came back to him when he stayed faithful to what God told him, or about how the people responded to God's good news with singing.
2. **Free Play:** Allow the kids to play with the classroom toys. (dolls, basketball, cars, tea party set, dress up, etc)
3. **'Joy...'**
Start with a round of 'I've Got the Joy Joy...' You can split them in two groups and have one side call out, "Where?" and the other side respond, "Down in my heart", etc. Tell them today you are going to hear about people in the Bible who sang about their joy.

Circle Time: When all the kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, walk around the room and have

each child follow you around the circle until you have a line with everyone in it. Lead them to the circle for prayer time. (Like playing follow the leader.)

Welcome Song: (To the tune of “Are You Sleeping?”)

Welcome, [Name]

Welcome, [Name]

Hear God’s Word

Hear God’s Word

We can trust in Jesus.

We can trust in Jesus.

Welcome, friends.

Welcome, friends.

Repeat until every kid and adult has been welcomed.

Jesus taught us to share peace. We share peace in a special way by repeating Jesus’ special words. Jesus used these words of peace when the disciples were scared. Jesus said, “Peace be with you.” We share the peace of Jesus. During worship we can say, “Peace be with you.”

Make sure kids are sitting in a circle on the floor. Kneel down in front of each person/kid and share God’s peace by shaking their hand and saying, “Peace be with you.” Remember to honor those kids who do not want to be touched! **Let’s all say Jesus’ words of peace. “Peace be with you.”** Repeat a few times before moving on to prayer.

Prayer Time:

Praying for Others: Ask the kids if they have anything that they would like to have prayed for. Share requests and then have someone pray for them. Remind the kids to pray for friends throughout the week.

Praying Together: (*touch your nose for ‘smell’, your ears for ‘hear’, etc.*) *God, help us use our **ears** to **hear** you, our **eyes** to **see** you, and our **brains** to **understand** your word. Thank you Jesus that you live in a body like ours.*

Story: from Luke 1:39–80

[READ]

After the angel gave Mary the good news of her baby, she hurried as fast as she could to the town her cousin, Elizabeth, lived. When Mary said hello to Elizabeth, the baby John who was already growing inside Elizabeth’s womb

starting jumping around with excitement! Remember, the angel said her baby John would be filled with the Holy Spirit, and when this happened, Elizabeth became filled with the Spirit too.

“You are blessed and your child will be a blessing!”, Elizabeth shouted to Mary. “You are blessed for believing what the Lord said to you!”

When Mary heard this, she was so happy she began to sing!

**“Glory to God! I have joy because he saves!
He cares for even me, in my humble state.
People forever will know he has blessed me,
And all those who fear him will know his mercy.
He does great things, he is mighty and strong,
He humbles proud kings, but the humble he lifts up.
He feeds the hungry, cares for those in need,
But the ones who think they don’t need him are left empty.
He has remembered his people and helped Israel Keeping his promise, he
is merciful and faithful!”**

Mary stayed with her cousin Elizabeth and Zechariah for three months before she went back home. Around that time, Elizabeth had her son. She wanted to name him John, just as the angel had told her and Zechariah to do, but all of her friends and family who were there thought she should name him after his dad or another relative instead. They asked Zechariah, Elizabeth’s husband, what the baby’s name should be. Remember, Zechariah wasn’t able to speak for months because he doubted the news the angel gave about John being born.

So, Zechariah wrote down, “My son’s name is John”. Suddenly, Zechariah got his voice back because he had obeyed what God has said! He was so happy he started to sing with his voice!

**“Praise the Lord, our God, He has come to redeem!
Just as he promised long ago - What a powerful King!
We will surely be saved from the kingdom of hate
We no longer have to fear we’re free to serve him always!
And my son, whom God has given, will point people to him
To the God who forgives, who cleanses our sins!
Because of God’s mercy coming down from his throne,
To shine on the darkness, to guide us, and make us whole!”**

And the baby John grew up and became strong in God’s Spirit.

[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
- Key theme:
 - When the good news of God saving His people is heard, the response is singing. Voices are raised to God.
 - Even Zechariah, who lost his voice because of his doubt, gets his voice back when he sees God's good news and trusts in it. With his restored voice, he responds with praise to the Lord!
 - Christ has come to restore us - may we lift our restored lives in praise too!

Snack Time: Let's take a big stretch! Pause for kids to stretch and get the wiggles out. Clean the table for snack time. Help the kids wash hands together before delving into today's snack. Sing songs while you wash hands. You can give them each a wipe or a squirt of hand sanitizer. Have the children have a seat at the table. Today's snack is goldfish or veggie straws. Make sure none of the kids have an allergy to them. Begin passing out the napkins, goldfish or veggie straws, and cups of water.

BLESS Activity:

For kids to do during the week

How will you use your voice to Speak about God's goodness this week? Who will you tell?

Optional playground time: If you have extra time please feel free to take the kids to the playground. Please be mindful that 2-4's playground time does not start until 5:30PM.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for your word, The Bible.

Thank you for giving us voices to sing, laugh and show love to others.

Help us to lift our voice up to you because you are worthy.

Thank you God, Jesus and Holy Spirit.