

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

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

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:** Good news of God's salvation fills our hearts with joy
- **Question:** What do you do when you are really happy?
- **Starter:** '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.
- **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!

***“God is magnificent! He is the King who 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!
- **Prayer:**
God, you have made us and given us everything we have, including our voices. Help us to lift our voices up to you in praise, because you are worthy. Help us to give our whole selves to you. In Jesus' name, amen.
 - **Craft:**
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.
 - **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?