

LESSON 2

**ELIZABETH AND ZECHARIAH**

LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Prepares the Way for Jesus

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 1

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** After centuries of waiting for the King God had promised, Zechariah and Elizabeth have a son who is filled with God's Spirit from a young age and prepares the hearts of God's people for Jesus.

**WORD OF WONDER:** A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace. —from Isaiah 9:6

**CURIOSITY**

**BELIEF**

**FAITH**

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: O Come (All Ye Faithful), Go Tell it on the Mountain
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[Waiting for the King Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



## LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Prepares the Way for Jesus

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 1

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Isaiah 9:6

During Advent and Christmas, I usually spend time thinking about what traditions will help my kids understand who Jesus is. Storybook Bibles. Family devotionals. Songs and carols. Wreaths and candles. What will point them to Jesus? If I'm honest, it all makes me a bit anxious. What if I mess it up or say the wrong thing? Sometimes teaching them about God's big story feels daunting.

Read Luke 1:5–25. The story of Elizabeth and Zechariah—and the promised birth of John the Baptist—shows how God was preparing the way for Jesus. He was getting the world ready. Perhaps God's preparations feel as finished to you as the expected conclusion of the Nativity story, but God is still working. He is still preparing people to meet Jesus. He works through all kinds of things to kindle and nurture a person's faith. He might even work through a dad who sometimes says the wrong thing or a kids' ministry volunteer who feels in over her head.

God invites us to be part of His big story as we follow Jesus day by day, year by year. What does God have in store for you this week? How is He preparing you to know Jesus more? And how might He work in you and through you to nurture another person's faith? God prepares the way for Jesus, from ancient days until kingdom come. God is at work. He hasn't stopped.

—**Michael Rade**

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher  
Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Zechariah was a descendant of Aaron and a priest of the division of Abijah. Each division served at the temple for about two weeks every year, so Zechariah probably had another occupation while not serving. Zechariah's wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron, the first high priest and brother of Moses.

**WHAT?**

The angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah in the temple to tell him his wife Elizabeth would bear a son, despite her old age. They were to name him John. John would be filled with the Holy Spirit and prepare God's people for the coming Lord.

**WHERE?**

The angel appeared to Zechariah in God's temple in Jerusalem. He appeared on the right side of the altar of incense, which was located in the part of the temple called the holy place. Zechariah and Elizabeth lived somewhere in the hill country of Judea.

**WHEN?**

This story takes place in the time of Herod, king of Judea, close to the end of his rule in 4 BC. Elizabeth became pregnant about six months before the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her she would give birth to Jesus.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

Through the birth of John the Baptist, God was preparing the way for Jesus, the everlasting King. John spent his days spiritually preparing people for the appearance of Jesus, who then proclaimed the kingdom of God and defeated the powers of darkness.



## LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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## Welcome

### Slide: Series Welcome Loop

#### As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

#### Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

## Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

**Leader:** I think I hear our friend, Tac the Cat! Let's see what he's up to today!

**Tac the Cat:** Hi, friends!

**Leader:** Hi, Tac! What are you up to?

**Tac the Cat:** We are getting ready to have a Christmas party for our friends!

**Leader:** Oh, that sounds like lots of fun!

**Tac the Cat:** Well, yeah, but my mom says we have to do a lot to get ready for the party. I'm curious. Why do we have to prepare so much? I don't think that part sounds fun. Why can't we just have our friends over now?

**Leader:** What do you have to do to prepare for the party?

**Tac the Cat:** My mom says we have to clean the cat house, go shopping, make some food, and invite others to the party.

**Leader:** Those things don't sound as fun as a party, but they are all important things to do to prepare for the party!

**Tac the Cat:** Yeah, I guess. I just don't like preparing and waiting.

**Leader:** It can be hard to wait for something exciting that we want to happen! In God's big story today, we're going to hear how God prepared the way for Jesus—and about some people who had to wait a very long time for that to happen!

**Tac the Cat:** Even God's people had to wait while He prepared the way?

**Leader:** They did but He was preparing the way for something—someone—really special.

**Tac the Cat:** Jesus!

**Leader:** Exactly!

**Tac the Cat:** That sounds amazing! Well, I guess I can help my mom prepare for the party—even if it means I have to wait a little bit! I better go start cleaning my room.

**Leader:** That sounds like a good plan! I hope you have fun at your party. Bye, Tac!

**Tac the Cat:** Bye, friends!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: When have you had to wait a long time for something you were excited for? Allow the kids to respond. How can you help prepare for Christmas? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God prepared the way for Jesus?"

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS**. Today we'll discover how God prepared the way for Jesus by sending someone special to lead the way!"

## Declaring God's Wonder

### SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

"Let's say these words together."

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much;** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

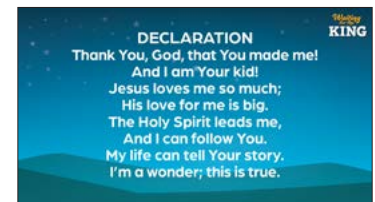
March in place like you're following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I'm a wonder; this is true.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, thank You for showing us who You are through Your Word. May we have ears and eyes to hear and see the things You want to teach us through Your Spirit. May we see how You prepare the way for Jesus! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Worship

"Today we'll learn about how God prepares the way for Jesus. Let's sing about how God prepares the way for Jesus together!"

**WORSHIP VIDEOS: O Come (All Ye Faithful), Go Tell it on the Mountain**

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

### Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible and what do I see?** *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

**God's big story, waiting for me!** *(Point to yourself.)*

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Luke in the Bible. Luke is in the New Testament, in the first four books, which are called the gospels."

**VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY**

# GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, scissors (prep only), masking tape, craft sticks (4), cardstock (optional), puppet stage or bedsheet and clothesline (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Puppets Sheets](#)

Before kids arrive, print the Puppets Sheets and cut out each puppet. Tape a craft stick to the back of each picture to create puppets. If you have a puppet stage, set it up in front of the room for puppet helpers to hide behind. If you don't have a puppet stage, you could hang a sheet over a clothesline to create a makeshift stage.



**"Long ago, God's people were taken from their home, and they lived in two kingdoms. They waited for God to save them. God promised to send a king who would rescue them and be in charge forever. A man named Daniel had a dream from God that showed a king who would save God's people.**

**For many years, God's people waited for this king. Two of those people were Zechariah and Elizabeth. Show the kids the Zechariah and Elizabeth puppets. Choose two kids to come up and hold each of the puppets. They were married for a long time, but they didn't have children. Some people thought Elizabeth could not have kids because she did wrong things, but that was not true. Elizabeth and Zechariah both loved God. God was going to do something amazing for them.**

**Zechariah was a priest, which is a man who worked at God's temple. The temple was like a church. Zechariah worked there for two weeks each year. One day, Zechariah was chosen to go into the temple to worship God. This was a big day for Zechariah. While he was inside, an angel named Gabriel showed up!** Show the angel puppet and choose a kid to come up and hold the angel puppet.

**Encourage the kid who is holding the angel puppet to pretend to talk to Zechariah. "Do not be afraid, Zechariah," the angel said. "Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will have a child. It will be a boy, and you must call him John" (Luke 1:13). This news was wonderful! But it got even better.**

**Gabriel told Zechariah that John would have the Holy Spirit, or the presence of God, before he was even born. John was going to get everyone ready for Jesus to come! Was it almost time for God to send the king who would be in charge forever?**

**Zechariah stared at the angel. He could not believe the angel's words. He said, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is old too" (Luke 1:18). Gabriel said, "You will not be able to speak until after John is born. That's because you did not believe my words. They will come true at the time God has chosen" (Luke 1:20).**

**Zechariah could not speak. Not a word! When he came out of the temple, he had to wave his arms around to let the people know what happened. Have the kid who is holding the Zechariah puppet wave it around. Then his wife, Elizabeth, found out that she was going to have a baby! 'The Lord has done this for me,' she said. 'In these days, he has been kind to me. He has taken away my shame among the people' (Luke 1:25).**

Elizabeth had a baby boy. Her family and neighbors were so happy. They wanted to name the baby Zechariah after his dad. “No!” Elizabeth said. Have the kid who is holding the Elizabeth puppet shake the puppet back and forth as if saying, “No!” “He must be called John” (Luke 1:60). Her family and neighbors were confused. Show the John puppet and choose a kid to come hold it. They motioned to Zechariah to see what he thought. Zechariah still couldn’t speak, so he wrote down his answer: “His name is John” (Luke 1:63). “Right away Zechariah could speak again. Right away he praised God” (Luke 1:64). His neighbors were amazed.

The Holy Spirit helped Zechariah speak God’s message. He told about God’s great power to keep His promises and rescue His people. He told about his son, John, who was going to help people get ready for Jesus. John was going to tell them that their sins—the wrong things people do—can be forgiven. Zechariah told about a king who would be in charge forever and bring light to all people. God sent John to get people ready and help prepare the way for Jesus. God prepares the way for Jesus.”

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

“Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God prepared the way for Jesus—the everlasting King—through the birth of John the Baptist. When John grew up, he spent his days getting people ready for Jesus’ ministry. Then Jesus came and taught about the kingdom of God and bringing light into darkness.”

## Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish the activity, pray with them, thanking God for preparing the way for Jesus. Encourage them to use the sign language for “Thank You” during the prayer when you say, “Thank You.” Use your own words. Here is an example:

**Father God, thank You for sending John to prepare the way for Jesus. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. Here is an example:

**Blessing:** Just as Elizabeth and Zechariah waited for a son, just as the world waited for Jesus, may you see God working around you as you wait and prepare this Christmas.