

### 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.

**Object Lesson: Baby Play**

**Activity: A-MAZE-ing Fun**

**Worship**

**God's Big Story**

**Prayer and Blessing**

**Activity: Follow the Path**

**Wonder@Home™**

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

## Object Lesson: Baby Play

**SUPPLIES:** baby doll, baby blanket, baby bottle

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

**Welcome! Today we're going to hear a story about a special baby being born who would prepare the way for Jesus. The baby in today's story is named John. How do people prepare for a baby? What kinds of things do they need?** Allow the kids to respond.

Show kids the baby doll. Wrap the baby in the baby blanket and pass the doll around to each of the kids to hold and pretend to feed with a bottle.

**Let's pretend to take care of this baby just like John's parents took care of him in our story today!**

## Activity: A-MAZE-ing Fun

**SUPPLIES:** painter's tape, cardboard tubes (several), table tennis balls (at least 3), scissors (prep only optional), paper plate (optional)

Before kids arrive, tape some cardboard tubes to a wall to create a maze that the balls can go through. If the balls don't fit through the tubes, cut the tubes in half lengthwise so the balls can go through the tubes. Let the kids put table tennis balls through the maze made from the tubes.

**In our story we're going to hear about someone preparing the way for Jesus. In our activity, we're preparing a way for these balls to travel down the path!**

Show kids how to put the ball in the top tube and watch as it travels down the maze and out the bottom.

**Leader Tip:** Cut a paper plate into fourths and tape each section to the end of tubes as needed to prevent the ball from falling out before the end of the maze. Then consider placing a disposable cup at the bottom to catch the ball. (See sample photo.)



**Our Wonder Truth today is GOD PREPARES THE WAY FOR JESUS.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**GOD**—Point up.

**PREPARES THE WAY**—Motion with palm up as if showing a path.

**FOR JESUS**—Make a “rocking baby” motion with arms.

## Worship

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from the [Waiting for the King Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

**Today we're learning that God prepares the way for Jesus. Let's sing and dance as we thank God for sending Jesus.**

Play songs from the [Waiting for the King Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, scissors (prep only), masking tape, craft sticks (4), cardstock (optional)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Puppets Sheets, [God's Big Story Video](#)

Before kids arrive, print the Puppets Sheets and cut out each puppet. If you want the puppets to be more durable, you can print them onto cardstock. Tape a craft stick to the back of each picture to create puppets.

**Long ago, God's people waited for Him to save them. God promised to send a king who would rescue them and be in charge forever. Two of those people were Zechariah and Elizabeth.** Show the kids the Zechariah and Elizabeth puppets. Choose two kids to hold each of the puppets. **They were married for a long time, but they didn't have any children.**



**Zechariah was a priest, which is a man who worked at God's temple. The temple was like a church. One day, Zechariah was chosen to go into the temple to worship God. While he was inside, an angel named Gabriel showed up!** Show the angel puppet and choose a kid to hold the angel puppet. **The angel told him not to be afraid and that his wife, Elizabeth, was going to have a baby. This news was wonderful! But it got even better.**

**Gabriel told Zechariah that the baby, 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! Zechariah couldn't believe what the angel said! And the angel made it so Zechariah could not speak. Not even a word!**

**Elizabeth did have the baby boy. Everyone was so happy. They named him John.** Show the John puppet and choose a kid to hold it. **Then Zechariah could speak again.**

**The Holy Spirit helped Zechariah speak God's message. 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.**

## Prayer and Blessing

**Let's talk to God. When I say, "Thank you," repeat after me.**

**God, thank You** (encourage kids to say, "Thank You") **for sending John to prepare the way for Jesus. Thank You** (encourage kids to say, "Thank You" again) **for sending Jesus to save us. Thank You** (encourage kids to say, "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.

**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.**

## Activity: Follow the Path

**SUPPLIES:** disposable cups (at least 10)

Set several disposable cups out to create a path across the room.

**I created a path for you to follow! Let's see if you can find your way across the room by following the path I prepared for you! In our story today, John prepared the way for people to know Jesus.**

Encourage the kids to follow you as you walk along the path. You can move the cups to vary the path and create different routes in the room. Encourage the kids to follow you along the path each time.