

City LG - December 7-8, 2019

Bible Story: The Weary World Rejoices (The Coming Birth of John the Baptist) • *Luke 1:5-25; 57-80*

Bottom Line: You can have joy because anything is possible with God.

Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!*
Philippians 4:4 (NIRV)

CG: Countdown Video

WORSHIP: “Dance” and “Jesus, Savior of the World”

Worship Leader prays...

“Hi, everyone! It’s so cool to see how everything in God’s Big Story had led up to the birth of Jesus. For many years, God had spoken to His people through prophets like Isaiah and Micah. People knew that God would send a Savior one day, just like He promised. But then, a long time passed. The Israelites were being ruled by the Romans, but they wanted so badly to be free. Our story today is about a man named Zechariah, and a woman named Elizabeth.”

“Zechariah was a priest, which meant he had an important job working in the temple—which is like a church. Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth faithfully served God.

“Zechariah and Elizabeth were pretty old at this point, and although they had prayed to have children, they still didn’t have any.

“Two times each year, Zechariah went to the temple to serve God.

“He was chosen to enter the Holy Place inside the temple while the other priests prayed outside.”

“While Zechariah was inside, alone, an angel appeared to him! It was the angel Gabriel. Here’s what the angel said.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:13 (NIRV) and read.

“Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will have a child. It will be a boy, and you must call him John.

“Wow! Can you imagine what that must have been like for Zechariah? An angel from God told him that he and Elizabeth would have a son . . . and that they should name him John! The angel went on to tell Zechariah that John would be a very special person with an important part to play in God’s Story.

Open the Bible to Luke 1:14-17 (NIRV) and read.

“He will be a joy and delight to you. His birth will make many people very glad. He will be important in the sight of the Lord. . . . He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will prepare the way for the Lord.

“This was a lot for Zechariah to take in.

Boys and Girls, can I see your shocked face? (allow response) Zechariah asked the angel how he could be sure this would happen. How could he and Elizabeth have a baby if they were old?

“The angel responded:

Open the Bible to Luke 1:19-20 (NIRV) and read.

“I am Gabriel. I serve God. I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will have to be silent. 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.”

“Zechariah came out of the temple . . . and sure enough, he couldn’t speak. The other priests realized that Zechariah had seen a vision from God. Sure enough—just as the angel said—Elizabeth became pregnant and gave birth to a baby boy. We’ll stop right there and let our Bible Story video finish the rest of the story for us. Let’s take a look!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 7:00)

“God had done something amazing for Zechariah and Elizabeth. They were very old, and they had given up on having a child, but then God gave them John. What had seemed impossible came true!

“Things that might SEEM impossible to us aren’t impossible for God. ANYTHING is possible for Him. And when we remember that God can do the impossible, we can have joy.

“Remember this:

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “You can have joy because anything is possible with God.

“Let’s pray.”

Pray: “Dear God, it’s so good to know that nothing is impossible with You! Help us to remember that when we find ourselves in situations that might seem impossible. Please help us to choose joy even when we’re facing something that seems too big to handle. We know that there’s nothing we might face that’s too big for You. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“When you feel like your Christmas gifts aren’t as good as everyone else’s, or if you don’t have a gift at all, or when you have to face something really tough and you don’t know what will happen next, remember, **you can trust God no matter what**. No matter what happens, we can have joy, because anything is possible with God! Now it’s almost time for Small Groups, but before we head there, let’s worship God with our offering!

CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 3:00)

Dismiss to Small Groups