

Alley SG—December 4th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Breath of Heaven (Zechariah/Elizabeth and Gabriel/Mary) • *Luke 1:5-66*

Today's Key Question: What's the most amazing thing you've ever seen?

Today's Bottom Line: Anything is possible with God

Monthly Memory Verse: *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.* Luke 2:11 (NIRV)

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids to help retell the events of today's story. Let them take turns to collectively share all the different parts.
- If needed, let them look up the story in Luke 1.
- The sequence of events may go something like this:
 - Play a game of charades.
 - Give kids turns to act something out from the list below, while the rest of the group guesses.
 - Tell kids that the actions they'll be assigned will either be a combination of details from today's story or a random Christmas activity:
 - Angel talking to Mary
 - Decorating a Christmas tree
 - Wrapping a gift
 - Traveling to see family
 - Baby jumping inside Elizabeth's belly
 - Zechariah unable to speak
 - Baking Christmas cookies
 - Christmas caroling
 - Making a snowman
 - Sending Christmas cards
- After playing charades, ask kids the following questions in order to facilitate a discussion:
 - How do you think you would have responded if you were Zechariah, Elizabeth, or Mary?
 - How do you think Zechariah felt, not being able to speak?
 - Do you think it was easy to believe the angel and trust God?
- Explain how it probably felt impossible to Zechariah and Elizabeth when Gabriel told them they would have a baby. Encourage them to consider Mary—suddenly being pregnant must have seemed crazy and scary! But Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary all trusted, believed, and eventually got to experience everything happen, just as the angel told them. Help kids understand that this was evidence that anything truly is possible with God!

2. Bible Story Sentence Cards

What You Need: "Story Sentence Cards" (1 set per group), Bibles

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Story Sentence Card."
- Tell kids read the card to themselves without showing it to the other kids in the group.

- Challenge kids to form a line so their cards are in the order of the story.
- The catch is that to get in the correct order they can't talk to each other and they can only show two other people what's on their card.
- Once the group thinks they have the right order, tell kids to lay their cards face up in front of them.
- Read the cards out loud in the order they are placed on the floor.
- The correct order is:
 - Zechariah and Elizabeth loved and served God. They were unable to have kids.
 - Zechariah was chosen to burn incense before God in the temple while the other priests waited outside.
 - An angel appeared and said Zechariah and Elizabeth would have a son who would prepare the way for the Lord.
 - Zechariah thought it was impossible and didn't believe what the angel said and so the angel said Zechariah would have to be silent and unable to speak until his son was born.
 - Elizabeth became pregnant and gave birth to a son.
 - The people celebrated and were going to name them Zechariah, like his father. Elizabeth said, "No, he must be called John."
 - Zechariah asked for something to write and wrote, "His name is John."
 - Right away Zechariah could speak and right away he praised and celebrated God.
- Ask:
 - Are there any changes you want to make to the order?
 - Is there anything you want to add that is missing from the storyline?
- Potential discussion questions:
 - How did Zechariah respond to the angel? (Refer to Luke 1:12, 1:18)
 - Why do you think Zechariah questioned the angel?
 - When is it easy to give up, to lose hope, and stop believing something good could happen?
 - What are some things in the story worth celebrating?
 - Why is this story part of the Christmas story? What does it have to do with Jesus?

3. Discussion Questions

- What are some of the most amazing things you've ever seen?
- What are some amazing things God has done?
- If God doesn't answer our prayers in the way we hope, does it mean God isn't listening? Why or why not?
- When things seem impossible, how does it help us to think about other times when God has done the impossible?

4. Just for Fun

What You Need: Plastic candy canes (40 per group, 15 in two containers, plus 1 per kid), Containers (4 per group), mobile device timer

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Tell teams to stand in a line.
- Give each kid a candy cane.
- Place a container of candy canes at one end of each team's line.
- Place an empty container at the other end of each team's line.
- Tell teams they have two minutes to transfer the candy canes from one container to the other.
- The rules are:
 - Teams must use the candy canes they are holding to pass candy canes from the container to each other. No one can touch the candy cane they are transporting with any part of their body.
 - If a candy cane falls, teams can opt to retrieve it using the candy cane they are holding or just leave it on the ground and start over with a new candy cane.
 - The team to transfer the most candy canes from one bucket to the other in the allotted time is the winner.
- Play a few rounds. If necessary, vary the time of each race.

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Say:

“Dear God, Thank You for all the things that You have done in our lives that seemed impossible at the time. You are our Mighty God, and You can do anything! Help us to remember that. Thank You for giving us this group. It's so important to have people that we can share with and pray with. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.”