

City LG—December 4th, 2022

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

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)

WORSHIP: "Dance" and "Noel"

"Hi, everybody! It's great to see all of your smiling faces. We're taking this whole month to celebrate Christmas and see how Jesus came to the world.

"If we look back at God's Big Story, we can see how God made an amazing world. But when people turned away from God, the world was broken. Still, God had a plan to bless the whole world through Abraham's family, the Israelites.

"Over and over again, the people turned away from God. Then, other countries invaded and captured the Israelites. The Israelites must have wondered if God still loved them and had a plan for them.

"God spoke through people called prophets who talked about the great Rescuer who God would send. (*Pause.*) But then, for hundreds of years, the Rescuer didn't come. During that time, people waited for God's promise to come true.

"We'll pick up the story today in the New Testament of the Bible. We've gone all the way through the Old Testament, and now we're right here.

Hold up the Bible and flip to the New Testament, making sure the kids can see what you're doing.

"Here in the New Testament, we read about Jesus and the early church. This is where we can read the story of how Jesus was born!"

"When this part of the story took place, God's people were being ruled by the Romans. There was a priest named Zechariah and his wife was named Elizabeth. They are who our story is about today. Let's take a look!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:00)

"Everyone was amazed when they heard Zechariah and Elizabeth's story—of the visit from the angel and their new baby boy. The news spread as people wondered about John, saying, 'What is this child going to be?' (*Luke 1:66, NIRV*)

"The really cool part is that John would grow up to play a big part in the life of Jesus. He would prepare the way for Jesus by telling others that Jesus was the Savior who God had promised.

"When the angel Gabriel said that both Elizabeth and Mary would have a son—it seemed like, for both of them, that it would be impossible. But it WAS possible, because it was part of God's plan.

"Let's learn this week's Bottom Line together . . .

CG: Bottom Line Video (Runtime: 1:00)

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Anything is possible with God.

"It's always so helpful to remember that God can do anything. When we find ourselves in situations that are so tough that they seem impossible, we can trust God and believe that God is always in control.

[Bottom Line] "Anything is possible with God. Let's pray and talk to God about that now."

PRAY: "Dear God, thank You for the way You brought both John and Jesus into the world. It seemed impossible to both Elizabeth and Mary that they could have a baby. But everything happened just as the angel said because it was all part of Your plan. Thank You for loving us enough to send Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for this reminder that, with You, anything is possible! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

"Next week, we'll get to look at the way Jesus was born. I can't wait for that! But for now, let's remember this amazing truth.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Anything is possible with God.

"I don't know if you've ever been in a tough situation that seemed almost impossible. Maybe you've had a really tough time with a subject at school, like math or spelling. Or maybe you got in trouble for something at home, and now you have to do extra chores to make things right. Or maybe your mom or dad got a job in another place and you had to move to a new school.

Option: Share a quick, age-appropriate story of how God brought you through something that seemed impossible.

"If you're going through something tough like that, it can help to remember how God has brought you and your family through difficult times in the past. You can remember that God is faithful and **you can trust God no matter what**. You can pray and ask God for the strength you need. You can also talk to the people God has put in your life. They can encourage you to keep going, because God is always with you and NOTHING is impossible with God."

OFFERING:

As some of you may already know, we are highlighting some of our Parkview Global Missionaries from the beautiful country of Mexico. Here is a picture of our Missionary Friends Eli and Mandy Garcia!

CG: Eli and Mandy

Parkview has spent many years developing a very important partnership with an organization called Vida Nueva Ministries in Mexico. This group has been working in many of the under-resourced areas to plant churches, start schools, and care for the amazing people of Mexico. Here's a picture of some of the kids at the school down in Mexico.

SLIDE: Kids at School (Image 6620)

So if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now knowing that it is going to help a lot of people just like you in the great country of Mexico!