

THE WORD BECAME FLESH



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#02 – The Birth of John the Baptist Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

PICTURES (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

- 2-1 John the Baptist
- 2-2 Angel Gabriel speaking to Zechariah

REVIEW (Before teaching lesson)

- **The Big Question Review:** Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the Word of God who came to live among us and reveal God's glory.

- **Lesson Rhyme Review:** What did prophets say about the Savior?

P—P

Prophets

Foretold of

Jesus' birth

P—P—Prophets

A Savior'd

come to earth

Make sign of P

Move sign of P out from mouth

Move sign of P in a circle out in front

Put arms together like rocking a baby

Same as above

Form a cross with index fingers

Put arms together in a circle over head.



P

- **Introduction:** (picture 2-1) What is this a picture of?

John the Baptist was a prophet who was sent by God. He was born in a miraculous way and was to make the people ready for the coming of the Savior. His father was Zechariah, who was a priest, and his mother was Elizabeth. They were very old and never had any children.

One day as he was serving in the temple, Zechariah was visited by the angel Gabriel. (picture 2-2) Gabriel said that Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth would have a child. Zechariah doubted what the angel said because Elizabeth was old and barren, which meant that she couldn't have children.

Because he didn't believe the angel, Zechariah couldn't speak until the baby was born. Both Zechariah and the angel said that John would be a prophet to prepare the hearts of the people for the coming Messiah (Savior). Who is the Savior God would send? Jesus is the Savior God sent to pay the penalty for our sin and save us.

The big question for this week is: What was John the Baptist sent to do?

Listen as I read the lesson book and see if you can answer the question afterwards.

- **Lesson Book:** Read the book. Refer to the attached discussion questions.

Title: Who is John the Baptist?

Page 1—Luke 1:76-77

(picture of John the Baptist)
God said he'd send a prophet
before the coming of his Son,
To announce the Savior's coming,
before his work'd begun.
John was the chosen prophet
to proclaim Christ's work on earth.
And there were many signs,
attending to his birth.

Page 3—Luke 1:7-9

(picture of Zechariah in priestly robes)
They thought they'd never have a child,
as they were then quite old.
But to God they still were faithful
to do what they were told.
Zechariah was a priest;
in the temple he had served.
One day he was on duty,
when he became unnerved.

Page 2—Luke 1:5-6

(picture of Zechariah & Elizabeth)
Zechariah and Elizabeth
followed in God's way.
The commands that God had spoken,
they wanted to obey.
Even though they loved God,
their lives still lacked of joy,
Because they were not given
a little girl or boy.

Page 4—Luke 1:11-13

(picture of Gabriel & Zechariah)
Gabriel came before him,
full of glory did appear.
Zechariah was quite shaken
and his heart was gripped with fear.
The angel said his prayers were heard
and he would have a boy.
His son would go before the Lord
to bring great news of joy.

Page 5—Luke 1:18-20

(picture of Zechariah not being able to speak)

Zechariah thought this couldn't be, his wife was very old.

And so he questioned Gabriel and what he had been told.

The angel said he wouldn't speak until all this came to be.

Because he doubted Gabriel, his words did not believe.

Page 6—Luke 1:23-25

(picture of Zechariah, Elizabeth & their baby)

Going back to his home, Elizabeth conceived and then gave birth.

Their son would be the prophet God said he'd send to earth.

John would go before the Lord to prepare the hearts of men.

He would announce Christ's coming and the need to turn from sin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Day 1: Who is our Savior? Who did God say he'd send before Jesus began his work on earth? Who was that prophet?

Day 2: Who were John's parents? What were they like? What made them sad?

Day 3: What were Zechariah and Elizabeth always faithful to do? Where did Zechariah serve? What does unnerved mean?

Day 4: Who appeared to Zechariah? What happened to Zechariah when he saw Gabriel? What did Gabriel say to Zechariah?

Day 5: Why didn't Zechariah believe Gabriel? What happened to Zechariah because he didn't believe what Gabriel said?

Day 6: Who did Elizabeth give birth to? What did God send John to do?

Review: Select a couple questions from above to ask the students again.

- Prayer: Thank God for the understanding that comes through his word and for sending his prophets to tell of the coming of Jesus. Pray that you would be faithful to speak the truth like John the Baptist did.
- The Big Question: What was John the Baptist sent to do?

John came to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus.

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the club time. The activities with a star are included on the weekly sheet.

★ **Coloring:** Color in the lesson picture.

★ **Activity:** Mouth

Instruction: Draw a mouth as a reminder that Zechariah couldn't speak until John was born because he doubted what Gabriel told him.

★ **Lesson Rhyme:** Practice the lesson rhyme with movements.

J—J	Make sign of "J"
John	Move "J" to mouth
Prepared the hearts of men	Make heart over heart Tap head with hand palm down
J—J—John	Same as above
Told them to turn from sin	Move upright index finger in circle Thumbs down sign



★ **Craft:** Speech Bubble

As a reminder that Zechariah spoke words of prophecy concerning his son and the Messiah, cut out the speech bubble with the words of the rhyme on it.

Materials: Cover stock paper, scissors, pencils or colored pencils

Preparation: Run off craft on cover stock paper. Cut apart.

Instructions: Cut out the speech bubble. Trace the words to the rhyme.

★ **Song:** Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,

Praise ye the Lord!

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,

Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah,

Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah,

Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah,

Praise ye the Lord!

Repeat three times, with each verse getting faster

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.