

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K & K)

Lesson #49

Date:

SUBJECT: The Birth of John the Baptist-Anticipating the Savior's birth.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:5-17, 18-25, 57-66, 67-79

AIM: To show the children how God was preparing the way for His Son, the Lord Jesus, through John the Baptist

MEMORY VERSES: 1 John 4:14 "...the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world."

INTRODUCTION: this is the first lesson on the New Testament. Long, long ago God had promised that He would send a special person to be our savior. Now the Savior has come as a little baby born in a stable. At His birth, this baby was both God and man—the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONTENT:

The angel announces John's birth (Luke 1:5-17)

Zacharias and Elizabeth were old enough to be grandparents. But though they had been married many years and had wanted children very much, they did not have even one child.

Zacharias was a priest in the temple at Jerusalem. When it was his turn to lead in worship, he traveled to Jerusalem and stayed there for a few days.

One time many people had gathered in the temple courtyard. Zacharias was leading them in worship. Then he took a special container that held burning coals and went inside the temple. He was going to burn sweet-smelling incense just as God had commanded many many years ago.

Zacharias must have felt much honored. Perhaps this would be the only time in his life that he could burn incense inside the temple. Zacharias went behind the curtain into a room called "the holy place". *[Place the figure of Zacharias standing before the altar.]* He placed the hot coals in a golden bowl on the altar; then he sprinkled incense on the hot coals. The burning incense made sweet-smelling smoke. While the smoke rose into the air, Zacharias prayed for the people. *[Replace standing Zacharias with praying figure.]*

Suddenly an angel appeared before him. *[Place angel]* Zacharias was startled and afraid!

The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zacharias. God has heard your prayer. Your wife Elizabeth will give you a son, and you should call him John. He will be a joy to

you. Many people will be happy that he was born. He will be great in God's sight. He will help people get ready for the coming of the Savior."

Zacharias is unbelieving (Luke 1:18-25)

Zacharias asked, "How can I be sure of what you are telling me? My wife and I are too old to have a child."

The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God. He sent me to tell you the happy news, because you do not believe my words, you will not be able to talk until your son is born." *[Remove figures.]*

The people who were waiting outside in the courts temple kept on praying. They wondered why Zacharias not comes out again.

When Zacharias finally did come, he could not say a word. He had to make signs to the people. They could tell by the way he looked and acted that he had seen a vision from God in the temple.

When Zacharias finished his time in Jerusalem, he went home. Since he could not speak, he probably wrote the angel's message for Elizabeth. She was very happy; she is going to have a son. "The Lord has shown me His favor," she said.

Baby John is born (Luke 1:57-66)

Later that year, Elizabeth and Zacharias' baby was born. Their neighbors and cousin had heard that the Lord had been very good to the older couple, so they come to celebrate the birth of the baby.

Eight days later, the baby was going to be named. People said that the baby should be named Zacharias, after his father. But Elizabeth said, "No! He shall be called John."

Surprised, they said to her, "No one in your family called John." Then they made signs to Zacharias, ask what he wanted to name the baby.

Zacharias made signs for someone to give him a tablet. On it he wrote, "His name is John." Everyone was amazed. Immediately the Lord let Zacharias speak, and he praised God.

Zacharias sings about the coming Savior (Luke 1:67-79)

Then Zacharias sang a song of praise to God. "Praise be to the Lord God. He is sending a Savior to our people as He promised. My son will be the prophet of the Most High. He will go before the Lord and prepare the way. John will help people to know

about salvation and forgiveness of their sins. God is sending His Son to give us light and guide us in ways of peace.”

The people spread the amazing news about Zacharias, Elizabeth, and baby John through all Judea. They said, “Let’s see what kind of man this baby becomes.”

Adapted from Primary Teaching Guide, December 1990-February 1990, Unit 1, Lesson1. Scripture Press, Wheaton, Illinois, USA-
Used by permission.