



At-A-Glance: Ages 10-12
God of Wonders: The Wonder of Advent
Unit 10, Lesson 48

Advent 1: Gabriel Visits Zechariah

Lesson Aim: To look for ways God comes near to us and to find ways to come near to Him.

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: What is your favorite way to get ready for Christmas?

GAME: Silent Draw

THE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO COMES NEAR

Read Worship Scripture: Luke 1:13-14, 17.

Sing songs and worship God.

Bless and collect the offering.

Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony: Angel's candle

Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook.

THE WORD GABRIEL CAME TO ZECHARIAH

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: God sent Joshua and His people to conquer Jericho.

Today, we move ahead almost 1,400 years to learn how God prepared His people for Jesus' birth. This story takes place inside the temple in Jerusalem. Point to Jerusalem. God sent His angel Gabriel to tell Zechariah he would have a son. He was to name him John. Point to John the Baptist (Circa 1 A.D.). John would tell the world about Jesus. Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Luke 1:5-25, 62-65. Find It First. Highlight Key Verse: Luke 1:13. Pray.

When we read about Moses, we learned of a special tent where God's people worshiped Him. The altar of incense was kept there. What the tent was called? (The tabernacle.) Years later, the altar of incense was kept in the temple. Zechariah was standing next to the altar when Gabriel appeared. Read Luke 1:5-25, 62-65.

THE WAY GOD COMES NEAR TO US

God sent Jesus to save the world because sin was separating everyone from Him. Before He sent Jesus, God gave His people

ways to speak to Him and worship Him. The priests took turns entering the Holy Place to light the incense on the altar. It was a great honor for Zechariah to have a turn lighting the incense.

Zechariah and his wife lived faithful lives that honored God. Why might it have been hard for them to understand why God had not given them a child? Have you ever found it hard to understand why God answered one of your prayers in a certain way? What did Gabriel tell Zechariah about his prayer? (His prayer had been heard.) Has answered prayer ever surprised you?

Where did Gabriel say he usually stood? (In the presence of God.) What happened to Zechariah when he did not believe? (He could not speak until his baby was born.) Who was that baby? (John the Baptist.) Who would John prepare the people to receive? (Jesus.) What do you think Zechariah thought about during his silence? How might being quiet have helped him grow closer to God? What was the first thing he did when he could speak? (Praised God.) To prepare our hearts for Christmas, let's be silent and ask God to come near to us. Ask Him to show you ways you can come near to Him. Pray silently.

How did God come near to Zechariah? (God heard his prayer, sent an angel, made him silent, answered his prayer for a baby, gave him a son who would prepare the way for God's Son.) List the things Zechariah did to come near to God. (He and his wife obeyed God, He prayed for a baby, worshiped, prayed for others, he praised the Lord.) God came near to all of us when He sent Jesus. All who believe in Jesus have life forever close with God. In what other ways have you felt God come near to you? What things do you do to come near to God?

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Did you know Gabriel also appeared to others in the Bible? Over 500 years earlier, he appeared to Daniel. Both times, Gabriel came during a moment of worship and he came with news of answered prayer. Reveal Daniel 9:20-23. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

What was Daniel doing when the angel Gabriel appeared to him? (Praying and confessing his sins and the sins of the people.) Why did Gabriel go to Daniel? (To tell Daniel God's answer to his prayer and to help him understand why God gave this answer.) Understanding more about God brings us closer to Him. Who has God sent to you to help you understand more about Him? How might knowing the different ways God has answered prayer in Bible stories help you better understand God's answers and His timing?

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: Advent Calendar
- W³ BETWEEN THE LINES Journal Entry #48
- OFFERING OF ART: Gabriel talking to Zechariah in the temple
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Prepared to Snack

GAMES: Zechariah's Silent Charades, Listen Closely

CRAFT: Listen to the Bells Ornament

DISCUSSION: Do You See Mercy?

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Appearing Angel, Memory Verse Circle

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW