



Teacher's Guide: Ages 4-5
God of Wonders: The Wonder of Advent
Unit 10, Lesson 48

Advent 1: Gabriel Visits Zechariah

Lesson Aim: To know God gets believers ready for Christmas.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Comes Near

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 1:11-22, 62-64

What He Has Done: God sent His angel Gabriel to tell Zechariah the good news.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "God sent the angel."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Glory to God in the highest!" Luke 2:14a

Unit 10: The God Who Comes Near			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Gabriel Visits Zechariah, Luke 1:11-22, 62-64	God sent His angel Gabriel to tell Zechariah the good news.	To know God gets believers ready for Christmas.
49	Advent 2: Gabriel and Mary, Luke 1:28-33	God sent His angel Gabriel to prepare Mary for the birth of Jesus.	To know the Lord is with us as He was with Mary.
50	Advent 3: Jesus Is Born, Luke 2:1-7	God gave us His Son, baby Jesus.	To know Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem.
51	Advent 4: An Angel Visits the Shepherds, Luke 2:8-16	God sent an angel to announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds.	To know God sent an angel to tell the shepherds about Jesus.
52	Following the Star, Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	God sent a star.	To know the wise men followed a star.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Lamentations 3:24-29. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the good news that You bring us. Provide us with the quiet moments we need to prepare our hearts to worship You this Christmas. Amen."

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of an angel
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "God sent the angel."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Supplies: Advent wreath (See GOT TIME?)	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Bring You Good News" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "His One and Only Son" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" Additional Song Suggestions: "Away in a Manger" "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 10, Lesson 48
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Luke 1:11-22, 62-64	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 1:19 Visual: Picture of an angel
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: The Advent Angel	Angel template (available at ResourceWell.org), sturdy 11-inch x 17-inch white paper, label, glitter paint (or glue and glitter), three paper fasteners, cotton swabs, staples or tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Miracle Charades	None
		Game: Break the Silence	None
		Snack: Sent from Above	Marshmallows, cotton candy, or angel food cake to represent the fluffy clouds in heaven where the angels live
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10, Lesson 48 Color This Story: "Gabriel Visits Zechariah"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Luke 1:11-22, 62-64	None
	Up to 10	Craft: Advent Wreath	See GOT TIME?
	Up to 10	Game: Quiet Time	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News"
	Up to 10	Game: Memory Verse Echo	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about the birth of Jesus

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



God sent the angel **THE WELCOME**

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a sticker or stamp of an angel. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of an angel remind you of the angel Gabriel who came to visit Zechariah. Today's Whisper Verse is "God sent the angel."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "God sent the angel."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| "God" | The right hand with the fingers together and palm facing left raises up to heaven and then down slightly in front of face as a sign of respect. |
| "sent" | The fingertips of the right hand flip outward across the top of the left palm away from the body to show something being sent away. |
| "(the) angel." | Both hands tap front of the shoulders and then turn outward and wave as if flapping wings associated with the angels. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "God sent the angel," Luke 1:26. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The God who comes near

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who comes near. Let's spend time being near to God today by giving our offering, singing, and praying to Him. Let's start by giving our offering now. Play: “Give Thanks to the Lord” as background music while collecting the offering.



The Lighting of the Christmas Candles: The Angel's Candle

Advent Wreath: 4 candles set in a wreath

We light the Christmas candles to get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Today, we light the first candle. It is called the Angel's candle to remind us that God sent the angel to a man named Zechariah. Choose a child to assist in lighting the first of the four purple candles on the Advent wreath. The candle lighting takes place during the performance of *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello* puppet script or after reading the storybook version.



Before we light the Angel's candle, let's see if Delbert and Lello know about our Christmas candles. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 10, Lesson 48.

If you chose to read the storybook, have a child light the first candle now.



In today's story, God came near to a man named Zechariah by sending an angel to give him good news. That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse: “God sent the angel.” Let's whisper that together. Review the Whisper Verse: “God sent the angel.” Include sign language.

Later, God sent an angel to the shepherds with more good news. Listen to what that angel said to the shepherds. Sing: “I Bring You Good News.” Children listen to the verses and sing along on the chorus: “Glory to God in the highest.” **Glory to God in the highest means we give our biggest and highest praise and thanks to God.**

Zechariah was quiet for a long time. The first thing he did when he was allowed to talk was to sing a song of praise. Let's be very quiet and listen to the verse of this song and then we will sing out, “O come, let us adore Him,” three times, getting louder each time. To adore Him means to love Him. Sing: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” or another favorite Christmas worship song.



God prepares Zechariah

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;
My mouth quiet as can be,
I will listen to hear,
How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.
Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
Cup hand around ear.
Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned how God brought down the wall around Jericho. Today, we will hear about a different kind of miracle when God sent an angel to visit a man named Zechariah.

Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 1:19.

WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 1:11-22, 62-64

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a sculpture, toy, or picture of an angel. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story picture, or any related picture.

- God sent the angel to Zechariah one day,
- "Your prayer has been answered. Do not be afraid.
- Your wife is old, but will soon have a baby boy.
- You will name him John and he will bring you great joy.

- He will make hearts ready to meet God's Son.
- He will prepare the way when Jesus comes."
- But Zechariah did not believe this news at first.
- So the angel Gabriel said, "You will speak no more words."

- So Zechariah spoke not, not a word could he say.
- Until the baby was born and given John as a name.
- Then his mouth was opened and his words came out,
- And his very first words praised God out loud!



What was the angel's name? (Gabriel.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Luke 1:19 from the teacher's Bible.

Who sent the angel to Zechariah? (God.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say our Whisper Verse together, "God sent the angel." Include sign language or hand motions.



God prepares us for Christmas

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: THE ADVENT ANGEL

Purpose: To know God sent His angel Gabriel to tell Zechariah the good news.

Supplies: Angel template (available at ResourceWell.org), 11-inch x 17-inch sturdy white paper, label, glitter paint (or glue and glitter), 3 paper fasteners, cotton swabs, staples or tape, crayons or markers

Prepare: Enlarge the angel template and cut out an advent angel from 11-inch x 17-inch sturdy white paper. Place paper fasteners in the holes indicated by the X's on the template. On a label, print:

"Glory to God in the highest." Luke 2:14a

Teacher Tip: The three paper fasteners in the angel's robe will be used in Lessons 49, 50, and 51 to attach decorated robe panels the children will create in those lessons. It is easier to attach the paper fasteners before the angel is decorated and assembled. You may want to send the "Advent Angel" craft home with instructions on how to add the ornaments created in Lessons 49, 50, and 51.

Alternate Craft: The robe panels created in Lessons 49, 50, and 51 can be used as individual ornaments rather than adding them to the Advent Angel. If you choose this option, do not add the paper fasteners and make a smaller Advent Angel.

Unit 9: You may want to keep extra crafts from lessons 48-51 for children who miss a lesson. You may also want to keep an Advent Angel craft sample for lessons 49-51 to demonstrate how to attach the new crafts to the Advent Angel. Also, the Watch the Word visual for Lesson 49 is "an Advent Angel craft sample from lesson 48, angel ornament, or angle tree topper."

Directions:

1. Use the crayons or markers to color the angel's face and hair.
2. Teacher places small drops of glitter paint on the angel's wings.
3. Children spread the paint using a cotton swab.
4. Let the wings dry.
5. Staple or tape the ends of the angel's robe together in the back.
6. Attach the Bible Verse label to the back of the angel's robe.
7. Bend the body portion of the angel forward so it stands upright.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who remembers the Whisper Verse?** ("God sent the angel.") **Let's say it together with hand motions.**
- **The Bible says Gabriel was a male angel. What do you think his voice sounded like?** (Children respond.) **What do you think angels look like?** (Children respond.)
- **What would you say if an angel came to you with good news?** (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: MIRACLE CHARADES

Purpose: This simplified version of charades serves as a review of the miracles studied recently this year and children experience Zechariah's challenge of communicating without words.

Supplies: None

Prepare: Make a list of familiar miracles such as God made the world, God kept Noah and his family safe on the ark, God parted the Red Sea, God sent manna from heaven, God caused the wall of Jericho to fall down, God gave us baby Jesus, etc.

What are some of your favorite miracles from the Bible? (Children respond.) **Because Zechariah could not speak, he had to make hand motions. Let's see how hard it is to be silent. You will each choose a favorite miracle from the Bible and act it out without making any sounds or speaking any words! We will try and guess the miracle.**

Directions:

1. Choose a child to begin.
2. Help the child act out their favorite miracle in the Bible without using words. Notes: Some children may want a suggestion of a miracle to act out. Allow the children to repeat a miracle, if they want.
3. The remaining children guess the miracle.
4. Repeat until each child has a turn.

GAME: BREAK THE SILENCE

Purpose: To connect with Zechariah's experience of breaking his silence with praise.

Supplies: None

After baby John was born, Zechariah could speak again. He had been quiet for a long time and he had plenty of quiet time to think about God. The very first words he spoke were words of praise. Let's see what it was like to be Zechariah that day.

Directions:

1. First child pretends to be Zechariah in silence, covering his or her mouth with a hand.
2. The remaining children use their "whisper voices" to count aloud from 1 to 10.
3. When they say "10," Zechariah removes his or her hand and says in a loud voice:

"I praise God because He _____."

Examples: Sent the angel, does miracles, made me, gave me friends, loves me, heals me, hears me, etc.)

4. All the children cheer with a shout: **"We praise God, too!"**
5. Repeat until each child has a turn as Zechariah.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SENT FROM ABOVE

Purpose: To remember the angel God sent to Zechariah.

Snack Suggestion: Marshmallows, cotton candy, or angel food cake to represent the fluffy clouds in heaven where the angels live

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "God sent the angel."
 - **Do you remember the angel's name?** (Gabriel.) **What was the good news the angel told Zechariah?** (That even though they were very old, he and his wife would have a baby boy named John.)
 - **The angel promised baby John would be very special because he would get people's hearts ready to know Jesus. Reading the Bible Story about the first Christmas is a way to get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas as Jesus' birthday. What are some other ways we can get our hearts ready for Christmas?** (Light candles, look at Christmas lights, sing Christmas carols, make angel decorations, gifts or cards to give away, etc.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Advent Angel" craft. Tell someone how God sent the angel Gabriel to give Zechariah good news.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how Zechariah was silent until John was born.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Gabriel Visits Zechariah." Discuss the Bible Story and play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Bring You Good News," as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: LUKE 1:11-22, 62-64

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **God sent the angel to Zechariah one day,** (Connect fingers overhead, as a halo.)
- **"Your prayer has been answered. Do not be afraid.** (Make praying hands.)
- **Your wife is old, but will soon have a baby boy.** (Rock baby in arms.)
- **You will name him John and he will bring you great joy.** (Make a happy face.)

- **He will make hearts ready to meet God's Son.** (Place hands on heart.)
- **He will prepare the way when Jesus comes."** (Point to heaven.)
- **But Zechariah did not believe this news at first.** (Shake head no.)
- **So the angel Gabriel said, "You will speak no more words."** (Cup hand over mouth.)

- **So Zechariah spoke not, not a word could he say,** (Place index finger over lips.)
- **Until the baby was born and given John as a name.** (Rock baby in arms.)
- **Then his mouth was opened and his words came out,** (Move mouth, as if speaking.)
- **And his very first words praised God out loud!** (Palms up, as if praising God.)

GOT TIME *continued...*

CRAFT: ADVENT WREATH

Purpose: Children work together to create an Advent wreath.

Supplies: Wire or pipe cleaners (brown or green), greenery (ivy strands, pine needles, etc.), four tall purple candles, four candleholders, sturdy paper plate, glue or tape

Teacher Tip: Create one wreath for the classroom or individual wreaths for children to take home. The directions for this wreath suggest four candles. Some wreaths add a fifth candle, "the Christ candle," which is in the center of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Advent means coming. In the four weeks before Christmas, believers use an Advent wreath to celebrate the coming of Jesus our Lord. Each week we light a new candle. The circle shape of our Advent wreath has no beginning and no end reminds us of the promise of a never ending life forever with God.

Directions:

1. Use wire or pipe cleaners to create a wreath shape (circle) and place it on the plate.
2. Attach the greenery to the wreath shape using glue, tape, or additional pipe cleaners.
3. Place the four candleholders evenly along the inner rim of wreath.
4. Place the purple candles in the candleholders.
5. Note: Over time, you may need to replace any browning greenery with fresh greenery.

Flameless Advent Wreaths: (1) Cut candle shapes from sturdy gold or yellow paper. Color the flames red or orange. Attach the candles to the plate with tape. (2) Use battery operated candles.



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Glory to God in the highest!" Luke 2:14a

GAME: QUIET TIME

Purpose: To take a moment of silence to think about God's goodness.

Supplies: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News"

Zechariah could not say a word for about 300 days. Since he was not talking, he had plenty of time to think about God and to listen. Let's take a minute to be quiet and hear what the angel said to the shepherds about baby Jesus.

Directions:

1. Invite children to get in a comfortable position either by laying their heads on a table or by resting on the floor.
2. **Listen for the words: "Glory to God in the highest." Glory is the praise and thanks we give to God. Glory to God in the highest means we give our biggest and highest praise and thanks to Him.**
3. **It is good to take time to be quiet and think about God. Let's be quiet and think about God while we listen to our Bible Memory Verse Song.** Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News." Children rest quietly as they listen.

GOT TIME *continued...*

GAME: MEMORY VERSE ECHO

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Glory to God in the highest means we give our biggest and highest praise and thanks to God. Let's echo our praises to God.

Directions:

1. Divide your class into three groups.
2. Assign one group to be the loud echo, one the regular echo, and one the whisper echo.
3. Shout the verse and have each group echo your words, the loud group first, then the regular voice group, and then finally the whisper echo.
4. Repeat a few times.
5. If you have time, reassign which group does each kind of echo and play again.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about the birth of Jesus.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 10, Lesson 48: Advent 1—Gabriel Visits Zechariah

PONDER! To celebrate the coming of Jesus, create a family Advent wreath using a circle of greenery and four candles. Light the first candle as the Angel's Candle and read Luke 1:8-17. Talk about ways to get the hearts of your family members ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for coming near to us by sending Jesus. Help us get our hearts ready in the coming weeks to celebrate His birth. Amen."

PLAY! Play Miracle Charades to experience Zechariah's challenge of using hand motions for words. Players secretly choose a Christmas miracle and act it out without using words. Other players guess the miracle. Some sample miracles to use are: God made the world, the animals boarded Noah's ark, God parted the Red Sea, God sent manna from heaven, the wall of Jericho fell down, God gives us baby Jesus.

Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Luke 2:14a

"Glory to God in the highest."