



Worship Illustration: Script
High Seas Adventures
God of Wonders Part 2: Genesis - Joshua
Unit 10, Lesson 48

Advent 1: Gabriel Visits Zechariah

Luke 1:18-20, 62-64, 68

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Set: The set for God of Wonders Units 7-10 is designed as a seventeenth century pirate ship viewed from the port (left) side. The Caribbean Queen's bow is stage right. On stage left, there is a raised wheelhouse with a door to the Captain's quarters. Characters and puppets may pop up from several trap doors in the deck and from the crow's nest near the top of the center stage mast. There is a pulley system to raise the treasure chest from below deck where the Bible is kept. For added interest, build windows, entrances, and levels where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Captain Billy Ocean is a rough and tough former pirate who has given his heart to Jesus and uses his ship to serve God's kingdom. Cody is one of Captain Billy Ocean's "skater" nephews. He is fairly simple, speaks in surfer terms, and is excited by most things, especially God's Word.

Plot: Captain Billy teaches Cody about the Advent tradition. He tells the story of how the angel Gabriel told Zechariah about the birth of John the Baptist. We learn God wants us to get our hearts ready for the coming of the Lord.

Costumes: Captain: Blousy shirt, vest, belt, boots, scarf, and an eye patch; Cody: Skater caps, skater shorts, knee socks, sandals

Props: Bibles, treasure chest, Advent wreath and candles, Christmas decorations

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro music suggestion: "Pirate Theme" from productiontrax.com tracks #19253 or #40794
2. Treasure chest music suggestion: **"Joy to the World!"**
3. Outro music suggestion: **"Joy to the World!"**

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Treasure chest contains the Bible. Whenever it is opened, light shines out and music with voiceover plays.
3. Scripture slide: ***Then the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men." Joshua 6:2***
4. Scripture Slide: ***The angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John... Luke 1:13***
And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Luke 1:17
5. Closing Slide: **"May the God of Wonders fill your sails and guide your path!"**

Adaptations:

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form at ResourceWell.org

High Seas Adventures
Unit 10, Lesson 48
Advent 1: Gabriel Visits Zechariah
Luke 1:26-38

Voice over (VFX: Video bump)

Ahoy lads and lassies! There be a legend centuries old of a lost treasure, more valuable than gold! Though the Pirates searched both land and sea, they could not find where it might be! Until Captain Billy sailed the ocean blue and brought that treasure home to you. So grab yer treasure map, climb aboard the Caribbean Queen and join us as Captain Billy Ocean and his crew unveil the greatest wonders God has ever shown!

Cody (enter to "Deck the Halls")

Ahoy kids, we're decorating the Caribbean Queen! It's a tradition. Uncle Captain Billy's teaching me how traditions make Christmas more special.

Captain

Aye, I love traditions. They remind us of what is truly important. Christmas is my absolute favorite. I love to remember each wonderful Christmas when I was a boy.

Cody

Uncle Captain Billy I also found this giant hoop thing. You could lasso a whale with this thingy!

Captain

Be careful with that! That's our old family Advent wreath!

Cody

Our whosie-whatsie?

Captain

Not a whosie-whatsie! An Advent wreath! It's the first week of Advent.

Cody

Cool...what's an Advent?

Captain

The word Advent means "Coming." Advent is the season when we look forward to the coming of Jesus and get our hearts ready for Christmas. It's a tradition that is special to our church family.

Cody (picks up wreath)

What about this round thing?

Captain

That's the Advent wreath. It's round and has no end just like God's love for us has no end.

Cody

Check this out, Uncle Captain Billy. I found this fat candle.

Captain

Aye, we light one candle every Sunday for four weeks before Christmas. The Christ Candle goes in the center. We light it on Christmas Eve to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world.

Cody

Cool, can I spark one up now?

Captain

Patience, my boy. First we have to read our Bible story so we can know what we're celebrating. Let me get the treasure map out right now! (Opens treasure chest, SFX: "Joy to the World," VFX: Light shines from Treasure Chest)

Cody

So, what's today's story about? The shepherds? The innkeeper? The donkey in the manger?

Captain

Today's story is about Zechariah.

Cody

Zechariah? There was no Zechariah in the manger!

Captain

No! This story comes a year before Jesus was even born.

Cody

I didn't know the Christmas story went back that far.

Captain

Oh, yes! God was planning for a long time to send a Savior. One day the angel Gabriel appeared to announce it to Zechariah.

Cody

So, who was this Zechariah dude?

Captain

Zechariah were one of the high priests what worked in the temple. He and his wife Elizabeth were very old and they wanted to have a baby.

Cody

Ha-ha! Old people can't have babies.

Captain

Have you forgotten about Abram and Sarah?

Cody

Oh yeah. Nothing is impossible with God.

Captain

Well, it was Zechariah's turn to burn the incense when all of a sudden an angel appeared right next to the altar of incense.

Cody

Did Zechariah freak out?

Captain

Aye, he was scared but Gabriel said: Don't be afraid, Zechariah. God heard your prayer and he's going to give you a son named John. He will share the Gospel with the whole world.

Cody

Gospel? That means, "Good News." You mean that little baby John was going to tell the whole world about Jesus?

Captain

Aye, he were Jesus' cousin and his name were John the Baptist.

Cody

Hey! I've heard of that dude! He's the one who told everyone to prepare the way for the Lord! So what did Zechariah say when the angel told him all that?

Captain

He didn't say a word.

Cody

Why not? I'd tell everyone.

Captain

Zechariah didn't say a word for nine months because the angel made him be silent until John was born.

Cody

Why did he do that? Was Zechariah in "time out"?

Captain

You could say that. You see, at first, Zechariah did not believe Gabriel's words. So, God gave Zechariah a type of grown-up "time out" to think about all that Gabriel had told him. And when his son was born, these were the first words he spoke: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come and has redeemed His people."

Cody

So, it was kind of like an Advent for Zechariah. God gave him some time to get his heart ready for the coming of the Lord.

Captain

Sometimes you surprise me, Cody.

Cody

Thanks. So can we spark up that candle now?

Captain

Why don't we let one of the kids do it? Who would like to help us light the Advent candle? (Choose volunteer.) **Okay, you get ready to light the candle. Cody, would you read our Bible verses?**

Cody (VFX: Scripture slides)

The angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John..."
Luke 1:13

"And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Luke 1:17

Captain (SFX: Joy to the World)

Thank you for helping us with Advent. You may have a seat. (Volunteer sits.) (Cody taps Captain on the shoulder and makes hand motions to show that he wants to go spend quiet time with God.) **What's that? You want to spend some quiet time with God? Aye, that's a fine idea. A little quiet time can help all of us get our hearts ready for Christmas.** (Cody exits.) **As you kids watch the Advent candle flicker, why don't you take a few quiet moments and prepare your hearts for His coming? Until next time, May the God of Wonders fill your sails and guide your path!** (Captain exits.)
(VFX: Closing Slide)