



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
God of Wonders: The Wonder of Advent
Unit 10, Lesson 48

Advent 1: Gabriel Visits Zechariah

Lesson Aim: To see ways God comes near to prepare our hearts.

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 1:11-13, 16-20, 62-64. 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 1:11-13, 16-20, 62-64.

THE WAY GOD COMES NEAR TO US

Where was Zechariah and what was he doing when the angel Gabriel appeared to him? What did Gabriel tell Zechariah about his

prayer for a baby? (His prayer had been heard.) **Why was it hard for Zechariah to believe they would have a baby?** (They were very old.) **Have you ever been surprised when God answered your prayer?**

Where did Gabriel say he usually stood? (In the presence of God.) **What happened to Zechariah when he did not believe Gabriel?** (He could not speak until his baby was born.) **What do you think Zechariah thought about during his many months of silence? How might being quiet have helped Zechariah grow closer to God? What was the first thing Zechariah did when he was able to speak?** (He praised God.)

What did Zechariah name his baby? (John.) **Who would John be preparing the people to receive?** (Jesus.) **God wants us to prepare our hearts to celebrate how He came near to us through Jesus' birth at Christmas. Being quiet helps us to listen to God. What would you think if you had to be quiet from now until Christmas? For the next minute, let's be silent and ask God to come near. Ask Him to show you ways you can come near to Him.** Pray silently.

God came near to Zechariah by hearing his prayer, sending an angel, making him silent, answering his prayer for a baby, and by giving him a son who would prepare the way for God's Son. List the things Zechariah did to come near to God. (He lived a life obeying God, prayed for a baby, he burned incense in the temple, prayed for other's sins to be forgiven, he praised God when John was born.) **God came near to us all 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 9:21-22. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

Why did Gabriel go to Daniel? (To help him understand a message from God.) **Understanding more about God brings us closer to Him. Who has God sent to you to help you understand more about Him?**

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

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: Advent Calendar
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- 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

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Appearing Angel, Memory Verse Circle

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW