



# 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

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE (Challenge Verse for older children)

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest." Luke 2:10b, 11, 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."



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Picture Schedule Cards</b>	Cards with picture illustrating the activities: WELCOME, WORSHIP, BIBLE, CRAFT, PRAYER, SNACK, GAMES, COLORING, GOING HOME. Envelope labeled FINISHED. Optional: To display schedule, use Velcro to attach laminated Picture Schedule cards to a felt board.
		<b>Treasure Chest</b>	Stamp or sticker of an angel
		<b>Whisper Verse</b>	Sign language for "God sent the angel."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Advent Wreath (Four candles set in a wreath) <b>Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "I Bring You Good News" (age 4 - grade 5) <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "It's Praise Time," "Give Thanks to the Lord," "His One and Only Son," "I Am with You," "I Will Remember" <b>Additional Song Suggestions:</b> "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Away in a Manger"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	God of Wonders Lesson 48 Delbert & Lello
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Luke 1:11-22, 62-64	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 1:19 Visual: Picture of an angel Flannel board/figures: Angel Gabriel, Zechariah Clay/play-dough: Heart
THE WAY:	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> 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
		<b>Alternative Craft:</b> Advent Wreath	See instructions.
		<b>Circle of Prayer or Lord's Prayer</b>	Lord's Prayer word and picture book
		<b>Snack:</b> Sent from Above	Marshmallows, cotton candy, or angel food cake
		<b>Unit 10 Games:</b> Sand Search	Bin or container of clean sand, nativity scene pieces such as angel, baby Jesus in manger, Mary, Joseph, shepherd, sheep, star
		Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down	None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets
		Gabriel's Message Ball Roll	Soft textured ball used for rolling (optional: decorate ball with Christmas colors)
		Blanket Ball Praise	Blanket or sturdy tablecloth, balloon or ball
		Where is Baby Jesus?	Flashlight, small baby doll or picture of baby Jesus
		Good News Musical Chairs	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player, chairs
		Scenes from High Seas Adventures	The scripts for Lessons 48, 49, 50, 51, 52
		Act it Out	Bible times clothing or stick puppets of Gabriel, Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, wise men, star
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Daily Way (Adaptation): Unit 10, Lesson 48 Color This Story: "Gabriel Visits Zechariah"

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



God sent the angel

# THE WELCOME

## PICTURE SCHEDULE: WELCOME TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_.** I'm glad you are here! Come and see what we are going to do today. Point to each card on the Picture Schedule board. Today, we will WELCOME everyone. We will read the BIBLE story and make a CRAFT. We will have PRAYER time and eat a SNACK. We will play GAMES and enjoy COLORING a picture about today's story.

**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](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

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

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>"God"</b>          | 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. |
| <b>"sent"</b>         | 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.             |
| <b>"(the) angel."</b> | 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

## PICTURE SCHEDULE: WORSHIP TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WELCOME picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Welcome Time. Now, we will have our Worship Time.**

Children may worship in a large group with other classes or in a quiet room with a worship CD or DVD.

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to a designated place for praise songs, offering, and the worship illustration. Children who are nonverbal may enjoy participating in the music by playing children's percussion instruments such as maracas, jingle bells, wood blocks, or small tambourines. Children who are sensitive to sound may prefer to wear noise reduction headphones.



**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" 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 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 it together.** 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 sing out "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" three times in a row, getting louder each time. To adore Him means to love Him.** Sing: "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

\* May substitute Lesson 48 High Seas Adventures script or storybook.



God prepares Zechariah

## THE WORD

### PICTURE SCHEDULE: BIBLE TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WORSHIP picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Worship Time. Now, we will have our Bible Time.**

**Last time, we learned how God brought down the walls 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. Have children assist by placing Bible Story figures on a flannel board. Other visual options include Color This Story or a related picture. Optional: To help children focus, have them create a heart from clay or play-dough as they listen.

- **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 did the angel say his name was? (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

### PICTURE SCHEDULE: CRAFT TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the BIBLE picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Bible Time. Now, it is Craft Time.**

### 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...*

## **ALTERNATIVE 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.



# THE WAY *continued...*



## CIRCLE OF PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

### PICTURE SCHEDULE: PRAYER TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the CRAFT picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Craft Time. Now, it is Prayer Time.**

**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 \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (say every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.** You may add the Lord's Prayer with the word picture book.

### PICTURE SCHEDULE: SNACK TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the PRAYER picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Prayer Time. Now, it is Snack Time.**

**Teacher Tip:** It is important to keep a record of all dietary restrictions and allergies accessible. Some parents may prefer to bring their child's snack. Depending on the dietary needs of your classroom, you may determine it is best to omit snack time completely.

### 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?** (Light candles, look at Christmas lights, sing Christmas carols, make angel decorations, gifts or cards to give away, etc.)



# THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS)

## UNIT 10 GAME OPTIONS

Play one or more of the activities below until the last five minutes of class then proceed to Final Five.

### PICTURE SCHEDULE: GAMES TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the SNACK picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Snack Time. Now, is our time to play Games.**

### GAME: SAND SEARCH

**Purpose:** This sand sifting activity soothes children. The items in the bin can be used to introduce the Bible stories or the Unit 10 Worship Attribute: The God Who Comes Near.

**Supplies:** Bin or container of clean sand, nativity scene pieces such as angel, baby Jesus in manger, Mary, Joseph, shepherd, sheep, star

#### **Directions:**

1. Children take turns reaching into the sand in search of the objects.
2. Teacher and children discuss each object as it is located.
3. When all the objects have been located, display them on a tabletop or on the surface of the sand.
4. Children feel each item as the teacher explains their connection to the Unit 10 Bible stories about the birth of Jesus. **The angel reminds us of the angel Gabriel who announced the birth of Jesus and of the angels the shepherds saw in their fields on the night Jesus was born. The shepherd (or sheep) reminds us of the shepherds who ran to find baby Jesus and told Mary about the angels in the field. Mary and Joseph remind us that Jesus had an earthly mother and father who cared for Him. The baby Jesus reminds us that Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem. The star reminds us that God used a star to lead the wise men to Bethlehem to find baby Jesus.**

### GAME: THUMBS UP OR THUMBS DOWN?

**Purpose:** This nonverbal true-false game helps children master the Bible story or the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets

#### **Directions:**

1. Teacher or puppet retells today's Bible story or Bible Memory Verse, pausing after each phrase to say, "Thumbs up or thumbs down?"
  - If retelling the Bible story, read it in phrases. For some phrases, state accurate descriptions. For other phrases, replace the truth with silly facts. For example, say, **The shepherds told the angel about baby Jesus. Thumbs up or thumbs down?** Children respond with thumbs down. **The angel told the shepherds about baby Jesus. Thumbs up or thumbs down?** Children respond with thumbs up.
  - If reviewing the Bible Memory Verse, read it in phrases. For some phrases, read it correctly. For other phrases, replace a word with another word that makes no sense. For example, say, **I bring you good news of great joy that will be for most of the people. Thumbs up or thumbs down?** Children respond with thumbs down. **"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Thumbs up or thumbs down?** Children respond with thumbs up.

# THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

## **GAME: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE BALL ROLL**

**Purpose:** To remind the children that the Lord is with them.

**Supplies:** Soft, textured ball used for rolling (optional: decorate ball with Christmas colors)

**The angel Gabriel appeared, called Mary's name, and spoke to her. At first, Mary was surprised and afraid of the angel. Imagine what it would be like for an angel to appear in this room right now and tell you that the Lord is with you.**

### **Directions:**

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Roll the ball to a child and lead everyone in saying,  
Child's name, child's name, do not be afraid.  
**The Lord is with you every day.**
3. Assist the child in choosing another child to whom he or she will roll the ball.
4. Repeat steps 2-3 until every child has a turn.

## **GAME: BLANKET BALL PRAISE**

**Purpose:** Children apply the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse and see how high their praise balloon can go.

**Supplies:** Blanket or sturdy tablecloth, balloon or ball

**God is in heaven. Where is heaven?** Prompt the children to say, "Heaven is higher than the clouds in the sky." **When Jesus was born, the angels filled the sky and said, "Glory to God in the highest." That means "Praise God who is way up high in heaven." Each of us will get a turn to praise God for something wonderful He has done. Then we will all say, "Glory to God in the highest." Let's see how high we can bounce our balloon of praise.**

### **Directions:**

1. Children stand or sit in a circle holding the edges of the blanket.
2. Place a balloon (or ball) in the center of the blanket.
3. Choose a child to praise God. Ask the child to finish the sentence: "**God, I praise you for\_\_\_\_\_.**"
4. Lead the children in saying, "**Glory to God in the highest!**" and then have them quickly raise the blanket to toss the balloon into the air.
5. Play until every child has a turn.

# THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

## **GAME: WHERE IS BABY JESUS?**

**Purpose:** The star's light (flashlight) helps children find the hidden baby.

**Supplies:** Flashlight, small baby doll or picture of baby Jesus

**The Bible says the star appeared over the place where baby Jesus lay in Bethlehem. Let's pretend we are following the star's light to find baby Jesus.**

### **Directions:**

1. Choose a child to hide the baby doll (or picture of a baby).
2. The other children close their eyes as the teacher assists that child in hiding the baby doll.
3. Choose a child to find the baby doll.
4. Point the light around the room to guide the child in the search for the hidden baby doll.
5. After the child finds the baby doll, assist that child in hiding it in a new place.
6. Repeat the game until every child has a turn.

## **GAME: GOOD NEWS MUSICAL CHAIRS**

**Purpose:** This version of Musical Chairs familiarizes children with the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News," CD player, chair for each child

**Prepare:** Set chairs back-to-back in a row.

**Teacher Tip:** In this version of musical chairs, no chair is removed and all the children remain in the game. Leave one or more spaces at the end of the row of chairs for any children in wheelchairs. Encourage quick listening and affirm those who are the first to hear the music stop and are seated.

**To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Good News Musical Chairs.**

### **Directions:**

1. As the Bible Memory Verse Song plays, children march around the row of chairs and sing.
2. The teacher stops the music at different times during the song.
3. When the music stops, children find the nearest chair and sit immediately.

## **GAME: SCENES FROM HIGH SEAS ADVENTURES**

**Purpose:** To learn applications of the Unit 10 Bible stories, older children act out the High Seas Adventures scripts.

**Supplies:** High Seas Adventures scripts for Lessons 48, 49, 50, 51, 52

### **Directions:**

1. Choose the script that corresponds with today's Bible story.
2. Assign each child a character name and improvise so all the children can be their favorite character, a new character, or just take turns being the same character.
3. Act it out!

# THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

## **GAME: ACT IT OUT**

**Purpose:** To help learn the Unit 10 stories, children act them out in costumes or with stick puppets.

**Supplies:** Bible times clothing or stick puppets of Gabriel, Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, wise men, star

**Optional:** Children can wear costumes and act out the story or they can hold craft sticks with the story characters attached. You may choose one or more stories.

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

### **ADVENT 1: GABRIEL VISITS ZECHARIAH**

- **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.)

### **ADVENT 2: GABRIEL AND MARY**

- **Mary was a teenager, good and kind.** (Thumbs up, as sign of approval.)
- **One day she saw an angel bright.** (Hand on forehead to shade eyes from bright light.)
- **The angel Gabriel said, “The Lord is with you.”** (Motions for “The Lord is with you.”)
- **Mary was surprised. She wondered what to do.** (Palms up, looking surprised.)
- **But Gabriel said, “Do not be afraid.** (Index finger wags to express “no.”)
- **The Lord sent me to you this day.** (Point to self.)
- **The Lord is very pleased with you.** (Thumbs up, as sign of approval.)
- **He’s giving you His Son; here is what to do.** (Point, as if teaching.)
- **Name Him Jesus when He is born.** (Rock baby in arms.)
- **He will be King forever more.”** (Hold imaginary crown on head.)

### **ADVENT 3: JESUS IS BORN**

- **Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem town.** (Walk in place.)
- **They went there for it was Joseph’s hometown.** (Point as in stating a fact.)
- **They arrived after traveling for a very long while.** (Look at wrist watch.)
- **Soon it was time to have Mary’s first child.** (Rub belly.)
  
- **He was born in a manger in Bethlehem,** (Rock baby in arms.)
- **For there was no room for them in the inn.** (Shake head no.)
- **Mary wrapped baby Jesus in swaddling clothes,** (Rock baby in arms.)
- **And lay Him in the manger—the place that God chose.** (Point to heaven.)

# THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

## ADVENT 4: AN ANGEL VISITS THE SHEPHERDS

- **The shepherds were out in the fields** (Fold arms.)
- **Watching over their sheep at night.** (Hand across brow, searching.)
- **An angel of the Lord appeared;** (Raise arms as wings.)
- **It was a surprising sight!** (Look surprised.)
  
- **“Do not be afraid,” the angel said,** (Shake head.)
- **“For I bring you good news.** (Point to self.)
- **Today in the town of Bethlehem** (Point toward a direction.)
- **A Savior was born for you.** (Point to others.)
  
- **“You will find Him in a manger;** (Point to the ground.)
- **The baby wrapped in cloth.** (Rock baby in arms.)
- **It is good news for all people,** (Thumbs up.)
- **He is come to save us all.”** (Hands on heart.)
  
- **“Glory to God in the highest,”** (Raise both hands high.)
- **The sky full of angels said.** (Point to the sky.)
- **The shepherds said, “Let’s go and see** (Beckoning gesture.)
- **This baby in Bethlehem!”** (Rock baby in arms.)

## FOLLOWING THE STAR

- **When Jesus was born in Bethlehem,** (Rock baby in arms.)
- **The wise men wanted to worship Him.** (Raise palms in worship.)
- **They traveled very, very far.** (Walk in place.)
- **They found Him by following the star.** (Point to the star.)
  
- **To Bethlehem, it led their way.** (Walk in place.)
- **It stopped at the place where Jesus stayed.** (Stop walking.)
- **The wise men, they were full of joy.** (Smile.)
- **They bowed down and worshiped the little boy.** (Bow head and fold hands in prayer.)
  
- **Their treasures to Jesus they did bring.** (Hide imaginary treasure in hand.)
- **They brought Him gifts fit for a king.** (Open hand to show the treasure.)
- **Incense, myrrh and gold they gave** (Make giving gesture.)
- **For He was the King who came to save.** (Point up to heaven.)

# THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## FINAL FIVE MINUTES

### **PICTURE SCHEDULE: COLORING TIME**

**WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME**

Choose a child to remove the GAMES picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Game Time. Now, is our time for coloring the picture of today's story.**

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

**DAILY WAY (ADAPTATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES):** Distribute this version of the Daily Way, if available. **Show the Daily Way 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 the children color.

As coloring is completed or parents arrive:

### **PICTURE SCHEDULE: GOING HOME**

**WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME**

Choose a child to remove the COLORING picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Coloring Time. Now, it is time for Going Home.**

## THE DAILY WAY

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."

**Unit 10 Bible Memory Challenge Verse:**

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest." Luke 2:10b, 11, 14a