

## Lesson 124

# Angelic Announcements

God delivers the message of the coming Messiah through his angel Gabriel.

# Studying God's Word

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Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

### Introduction

Before class, gather household items (e.g., roll of toilet paper, hairbrush, marker, book, cell phone, stuffed animal, kitchen utensils, tools). Place 3–5 items into a grocery bag for each group of 4–6 students. Gather one “boxed” product for each group to advertise (e.g., pudding or cake mix, pack of gum, can of beans, sealed roll of paper towels, etc.).

To start today, we're going to do a group activity. Divide students into groups and have them sit together. I will give each team a bag with different items and pass out a new product to each group. Your job is to create a commercial to announce this new product, such as (show example). Use at least three of the items in your bag in the announcement for your product. Everyone in the group should plan the announcement together and include several people to share it. I'll give you some time to plan your announcements then you'll take turns sharing them with the class. Let's get started! Pass out the item bags and “boxed” products then circulate around the groups to offer help. After about five minutes, have each group share their product announcement with the class.

How many of you thought it was easy to make your announcement? Show of hands.

What are some ways people make announcements today? Allow answers. News, social media, mail, speeches, pictures, videos, etc.

Today's lesson is about the most important announcement that God had for mankind!

Can anyone guess what it was? Jesus was about to be born!

That's right! Jesus was about to enter the world as a baby!

Refer to the Seven C's of History Poster. What event is this in the Seven C's of History? Christ.

Christ came to earth to save us from sin! He was the fulfillment of the prophecies in the Old Testament.

Slide #3

Slide #4

Refer to Lesson 122 Theme Poster. The Gospels in the New Testament record how Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. We can trust the New Testament because the Holy Spirit inspired the writing of the apostles and their friends as they recorded

the events in Jesus' life. They were eyewitnesses of the things they wrote about.

Refer to Lesson 123 Theme Poster. The Gospel writers wrote about the life of Jesus, but they each had a different purpose and focus. Matthew wrote to show Jesus as the promised King and Messiah. Mark showed Jesus as the suffering servant who had compassion on people. Luke showed Jesus as the Son of Man sent to save the lost, while John wanted people to believe that Jesus was the Son of God so that they can have eternal life with God in heaven. Together, the four Gospels give a more complete picture of Jesus.

## **The Messenger's Announcement**

Pass out the Class Notes.

Today's lesson is the first time God spoke to his people since the prophet Malachi's message 400 years earlier.

### Slide #5

Malachi 3:1

Look at Malachi 3:1 on your Class Notes. Will someone read that for us?

Assign a reader.

Who is speaking in this verse? The Lord.

Who was the Lord going to send? You can find that at the very beginning of the verse. A messenger.

Circle the word "messenger" at the beginning of the verse. Have students circle the word.

What would the messenger do? Prepare the way before him.

Malachi told the people that there would be a messenger who would come to prepare the way of the Lord. Underline that phrase in Malachi 3:1 on your Class Notes. Have students underline the phrase.

God chose a special way to announce the coming of the messenger who would prepare the way for the Messiah.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Turn in your Bibles to the Gospel of Luke, chapter 1.

### Slide #6

### Slide #7

Luke 1:5-7

Let's read about the man God spoke to after so many years. Who will read Luke 1:5-7? Choose a reader.

Who was the king of Judea? Herod (the Great).

Herod was a king appointed by the Romans to rule Judea, which is the land of Judah where the Jewish people were living. Many Jews liked Herod

because he rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem where the people gathered to worship God.

Who was the priest? Zechariah.

And what was Zechariah's wife's name? Elizabeth.

What does Luke 1:6 say about Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth? They were righteous, walking blamelessly in God's commandments and statutes.

Zechariah and his wife believed and trusted in the one true God. They loved God and sought to obey his commandments.

We learn something else about this couple in Luke 1:7. What is that? They had no child.

They had no child and were quite old, so it would be unlikely that they would have children.

Slide #8

Slide #9

Go back to the Class Notes. You'll circle the correct bold word(s) to complete each statement. I want you to quietly answer #1–5. Allow students a few minutes to complete the statements individually.

Let's see how you did! Assign different students to read #1–5. Check answers with the Class Notes answer key.

Zechariah was a priest who came to serve at the temple, and Elizabeth was his wife. They obeyed God and were righteous. They were old and had no children, but that was about to change!

Slide #10

Slide #11

Slide #12

Luke 1:11–15

Zechariah was chosen to enter the Holy Place and burn incense. Who will read what happened next in Luke 1:11–15? Choose readers.

Who appeared to Zechariah? An angel of the Lord.

How did Zechariah feel when he saw the angel? He was troubled and afraid.

What did the angel tell him? Look in Luke 1:13. Do not be afraid.

Zechariah was not to be afraid. His prayer had been heard. What did the angel tell him about his wife, Elizabeth? She would bear a son.

And what was this son's name to be? John.

Luke 1:19 gives us the name of this angel. Does anyone know what it is? Gabriel.

Slide #13

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. God spoke through his prophet Malachi about a messenger who would come to prepare the people for the Messiah. And now the words of Malachi were coming true! God sent his angel to tell the priest Zechariah that this special messenger would be his son. This was an amazing announcement! The angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and talked to him. He told Zechariah that even though he and Elizabeth were old and had never had any children, they would have a son. This son, John,

would be filled with the Holy Spirit, and his job would be to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. The Lord's coming was not far behind.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. There is an attribute of God that we have talked about. It means that God will always keep his promises. Which attribute is that? Faithful.

Yes. God is faithful to his children. We can trust him to always keep his promises. Sometimes we have to wait for his timing, like the people waited years for the Messiah. But we can be sure he will do what he says.

#### Slide #14

Who will read #6 on the Class Notes? Choose a reader. An angel. Have students complete #6.

What will you circle for #7? Who will read that one? Choose a reader. Gabriel. Have students complete #7.

### **The Messiah's Announcement**

Zechariah's son, whom we know as John the Baptist, would announce the coming of another son, one even more important than John. There is a verse from Isaiah on your Class Notes. Isaiah was a prophet who spoke for God more than 700 years before Jesus came.

#### Slide #15

Isaiah 9:6

What did Isaiah say? Will someone read Isaiah 9:6? Choose a reader.

Who was this child Isaiah was talking about? Jesus.

What did Isaiah say about Jesus? What are the names Jesus would be called? Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Now find those names in the verse on your Class Notes and underline them. Have students underline the names. Each of these names points to unique attributes of Jesus.

As a Wonderful Counselor, he will rule with wisdom. What does the Attributes of God Poster say about that? Wise—does everything perfectly without mistakes.

Mighty God refers to Jesus' power to defeat his enemies—his omnipotence. What does omnipotent mean? All-powerful to do whatever he wants. How about eternal? Always was and always will be.

Everlasting is another word for eternal, so Jesus will care for his people as a Father forever.

And as the Prince of Peace, Jesus will one day bring peace among all the nations of the world.

Isaiah said a child would be born. This was a special child—Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He would change everything for the entire world forever!

Circle the word "child" because this is no ordinary child. Have students circle the word.

### Slide #16

Isaiah 7:14

Our memory verse gives another important name for the son who would be born. Let's read the verse together. Read the memory verse together from the poster or slide.

What is the sign the Lord promised to give? The virgin shall conceive and bear a son.

A virgin, who is an unmarried lady, would normally need a husband to have a son, so the birth of this son would be miraculous—something only God could do!

What name is given for the son at the end of the verse? Immanuel.

Immanuel means "God with us." The el sound at the end of that name is from the Hebrew word for God. There is no doubt that this child was to be God born as a human.

### Slide #17

Who will read #8 from the Class Notes about Isaiah's prophecy? Choose a reader. Born. Have students complete #8.

And #9, which name is correct? Choose a reader. Immanuel. Have students complete #9.

### Slide #18

### Slide #19

### Slide #20

Luke 1:26–31

So, it makes sense that God would give a special announcement that the promised child was coming. And he did! We can read about it in the Gospel of Luke. We will read Luke 1:26–31. Choose readers.

Who was the messenger who brought news of Jesus' coming? The angel Gabriel.

This is the same angel God sent to Zechariah. Who did the angel Gabriel go to see this time? Mary.

What is important about the fact that Mary was a virgin? Allow discussion. The Messiah's mother had to be a virgin according to Isaiah 7:14.

The son sent from God as a sign had to be born of a virgin, and Mary was a virgin. She wasn't married to Joseph yet. God was fulfilling his prophecy about the Messiah.

And where was Mary when the angel came? What city? Nazareth.

### Slide #21

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Nazareth was in the region of Galilee. Gabriel came to Mary and greeted her. He said she was favored and the

Lord was with her.

What was Mary's reaction to Gabriel's greeting? Look in Luke 1:29. She was greatly troubled.

What did the angel tell her in Luke 1:30? Do not be afraid. You have found favor with God.

Then Gabriel gave her the really big news. What did Gabriel say would happen to Mary very soon? She would have a son.

And what was she to name this very special son? Jesus.

The name Jesus comes from the Greek form of Joshua, or Yeshua in the Hebrew. In Hebrew, Yah is another name used for God, and Yah-shua means "God saves." Jesus came, born of a virgin, to save his people from their sins by dying on the cross and rising from the dead to sit on the throne of David forever. The prophets of old had spoken of this day, and now all they had prophesied was happening.

### Slide #22

Let's finish the Class Notes. Who will read #10? Choose a reader. Nazareth. Have students complete #10.

Who will read #11? Choose a reader. Mary. Have students complete #11.

Who will read #12 about Jesus? Choose a reader. Messiah. Have students complete #12.

## **Application**

### Slide #23

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. God sent the angel Gabriel to deliver the message that the Messiah was coming soon. This Messiah would be the fulfillment of prophecies made hundreds of years earlier. First, the old priest, Zechariah, received the message that he would have a son, John. God would use John to prepare the hearts of the people for the Messiah. Gabriel also appeared to the virgin Mary. She, too, would have a son, and she would call his name Jesus. He would be the Messiah God had promised to send.

Angels are a pretty popular subject today. You hear about them on TV shows, in books, and in movies. Some people worship them. Some people think of them as good-luck charms. And some think their dead relatives are now angels who watch over them. But the Bible doesn't tell us any of that.

Who was the angel in today's lesson? Gabriel.

How did God use Gabriel in today's lesson? He delivered God's messages.

What are some other things we know about angels from the Bible? Allow discussion. Angels do the will of God. They are powerful. They often appear as men. They worship God in heaven. They are mighty warriors. Not many people see them. There are some good angels who follow God and some fallen angels called demons who follow Satan.

Many things about angels we won't know until we get to heaven. But we do know that they were created by God. And the Bible includes many examples of angels doing the will of God. They help God's children

(Hebrews 1:13–14), they are mighty and strong (Psalm 103:20), and they serve God and do what he commands them to do.

According to God’s Word, we know that angels are part of God’s creation. They are different from people, and people do not turn into angels. Angels are not good-luck charms, and they are not to be worshipped or prayed to. It’s a sin to worship anything else or anyone other than the one true God. He alone deserves our worship.

## Lesson Review

We encourage you to play a lesson review game.



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