



K-1st Lesson

Introduction

Refer to the Lesson 123 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we learned about the four Gospels in the New Testament.

- ? What does the word gospel mean? *Good news.*
- ? And what is the good news the Gospels tell us about? *Jesus came to save sinners.*

Each writer wrote about the life of Jesus, but they focused on different things. Matthew wrote to show Jesus as the promised King. Mark showed Jesus as the suffering servant who paid the ransom for sinners. Luke showed Jesus as the Son of Man sent to seek and save the lost, while John wanted people to believe that Jesus is the Son of God and receive eternal life in heaven.

- ? Now I have a question for you. What does it mean when someone says, “I have an announcement”? *Allow discussion.*

An announcement is when someone tells you some news. It can be good news or bad news or plain news that you just need to know. We’re going to play an announcement game. *Have students stand up at their seats. As you read the list of Announcements, have them do some kind of action (e.g., clap their hands, pat their head, jump in place, etc.) if they think it’s a great announcement. Have them do a different action (e.g., cross their arms in front of them, squat down, or shake head) if they don’t think it’s a good announcement.*

We hear announcements like these all the time. But in today’s lesson, we’re going to learn about the most important announcement that God ever gave to us!

- ? 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. Which C in the Seven C’s of History shows this event? *Christ.*

Jesus Christ came to earth to save us from sin! The Old Testament told about it, and now we’re going to see how it happened in the New Testament.

The Announcement of the Messenger

Remember the message Malachi wrote 400 years earlier in the Old Testament? He told the people that there would be a messenger who would come to prepare the way of the Lord. He would help the people get their hearts ready for the Lord, the Messiah, who would come after him.

- ? Who remembers what the word Messiah means? *The one God chose to save sinners.*

The Messiah is the chosen one who would come to save sinners, the Savior, so this was an important event. If the messenger was coming to prepare the way for the Messiah, that meant the Messiah would be coming soon after. The people had been waiting for hundreds of years for this to happen—ever since Malachi wrote about it!

Luke 1:5–7

God chose a special way to announce that it was time for the messenger to be born. Let’s read about it in Luke 1:5–7. *Have the student with the Bible bring it up and open it to the sticky note. Read the verses.*

- ? Who was the king of Judea? *Herod (the Great).*
At this time the Romans were ruling over the land of Judea where the Jewish people lived. Herod was not a Jew, but the Romans chose him to be the king.
- ? Who was the priest in this verse? *Zechariah.*
- ? And what was Zechariah’s wife’s name? *Elizabeth.*
Zechariah was a priest who came to Jerusalem to serve at the temple, and Elizabeth was his wife. They believed and trusted in the one true God. They loved God and tried to obey his commandments.
- ? How many children did they have? *They had no child.*

They had no children, and since they were quite old, they most likely would never have any. But they had been praying for a son. Now things were about to change!

Luke 1:11–13

As a priest, Zechariah was chosen to go into the Holy Place of the temple and burn incense to God. Listen to what happened while he was doing his work. *Read the verses.*

- ? Who appeared to Zechariah? *An angel of the Lord.*
The Bible says this angel was named Gabriel.
- ? How did Zechariah feel when he saw the angel? *He was troubled and afraid.*
- ? What did Gabriel tell him? *“Do not be afraid.”*
Zechariah did not need to fear. This was good news that the angel was announcing: God heard Zechariah’s prayer for a child.
- ? What did the angel tell him about his wife, Elizabeth? She would bear a what? *She would bear a son.*
- ? And what was Zechariah supposed to name his son? *John.*

Wow! What wonderful news! Zechariah and Elizabeth would have a baby boy.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Gabriel told Zechariah some special things about his son, John—things that matched what the prophet Malachi said about the messenger who would come to prepare the people for the Messiah.

This was an exciting announcement! God sent his angel to tell Zechariah that this special messenger would be his son, John. He would be filled with the Holy Spirit, and his job would be to help the people get their hearts ready for the Lord.

The Announcement of the Messiah

Remember, we said that if the messenger would be born soon, that meant the Messiah would also be born soon. But how would the people know who this child was?

Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah answered that question when he wrote about a special sign from God. Listen to this verse, Isaiah 7:14. *Read the verse.*

- ? What is the sign the Lord promised to give? The virgin shall conceive and bear a what? *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 a miracle—something only God could do!

- ? Isaiah tells us another name for this son. What is that name? *Immanuel.*

Immanuel means “God with us.” This name means this child would be God, but he would be born as a human baby.

- ? Who is this special child? Does anyone know? *Jesus.*

Luke 1:26–31

It makes sense that God would give a very special announcement that the promised child was coming. And he did! We can read about it in the Gospel of Luke, chapter one. *Read verses 26–27.*

- ? Who did God send to announce the news of Jesus’ coming? *The angel Gabriel.*
- ? This is the same angel God sent to Zechariah. Who did Gabriel go to see this time? *Mary.*
- ? And where was Mary when the angel came? What city? *Nazareth.*

Remember what Isaiah said about the sign sent from God? The special child had to be born of a virgin—and Mary was a virgin. She wasn’t married to Joseph yet. God was making everything happen just as he said it would.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Gabriel came to Mary and greeted her. Listen to these verses. *Read verses 28–30.*

- ? How did Mary feel when Gabriel greeted her? *She was greatly troubled.*
- ? What did Gabriel say to her? *“Do not be afraid. You have found favor with God.”*
At first Mary wasn’t sure what to think. But Gabriel assured Mary that she didn’t need to be afraid. Then the angel announced the really big news! Listen to what he said. *Read verse 31.*
- ? 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 means “God saves.” Jesus was the special child, the Messiah, who would be born to save people from their sins. God was faithful to do what he had promised way back in the Old Testament. He told the prophets like Isaiah and Malachi to write about the Messiah and about the messenger who would come before him. Now these things were happening, and God sent his angel to make the exciting announcements!

Zechariah would have a son, John, the messenger to come before Jesus.

God sent his angel Gabriel with two important announcements.

Mary would have a special son, Jesus.