



BIG IDEA:

**JESUS CAME TO BRING GOOD
NEWS TO THE WORLD**

BIBLE:

LUKE

GRADE:

4 - 7

WEEK:

1



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ACTIVITY

Whenever someone shares something good that happened to them, how do you respond? The right way to respond is to be happy for them and with them!

Does anyone have good news to share with the group? Like maybe, "Aunt Veronica and Uncle Carlos are having a baby!" Or, "I made a new friend at school!"

Here's how we'll share our good news with the group:

- You: "Guess what!"
- Everyone: "What?"
- You: "I have good news!"
- Everyone: "Tell us!"

After you tell us your good news, everyone will say "That's good news!" and cheer you on with our Joyful Noisemakers!

INSTRUCTIONS: *Start off the activity by sharing first. Then choose a kid to share their news, and have that kid pick the next person once they are done. Keep going until everyone has had a chance to share. If your group is timid or doesn't want to share, prepare a list of good news that's going on around the world or even in your church, and have everyone respond to those pieces of news!*

Sometimes it might feel like our world is filled with more bad news than good news. But the good news from today's Bible story is still the best and most important news we've got!

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BIBLE STORY**BIRTH OF JOHN FORETOLD**

INSTRUCTIONS: Use puppets, figures or other toys (get creative) to help kids visualize this story from Luke 1:5–20. You could also use a video (like this) to summarize the Bible story.

PRETEEN HACK: Involve preteens to act out the story instead of using props. The easiest way to do this is have them improvise! Cue them by calling out an action that their character might have done in the story (e.g., "Zechariah jumped back in alarm!").

Zechariah and Elizabeth were an elderly couple who loved God deeply. One day, Zechariah was serving in the temple when an angel suddenly appeared!

What if an angel suddenly appeared to you? How would you feel? I'd be scared, and Zechariah was, too!

The angel came from God to give Zechariah a very important message. God would give him and his wife, Elizabeth, a baby who would be named John. John would be filled with the Holy Spirit and turn many people to God.

Zechariah couldn't believe it. It seemed too good to be true! "How can this happen?" he wondered. "Elizabeth and I are too old to have a baby!" Zechariah was so overwhelmed that he couldn't talk anymore—for months! He was literally speechless! Having a baby with Elizabeth at their age seemed impossible to him.

But is anything impossible for God?

No! And just like God promised, Elizabeth and Zechariah had a baby boy!



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OBEJECT LESSON

Remember how I said you might get a little treat today? Well, good news — you'll all get one if you follow directions! But here's the catch. I'm only going to give the directions to one of you!

INSTRUCTIONS: Take an index card, fold it in half, and add these words inside: "Good news — Jesus loves you! Now, pass this along to one other person!" Ask the kid with the nearest birthday to come up, then hand them the "Good News Card" without any further instructions. Once they read it, they'll pass the card along, one person at a time, until it reaches everyone in the group.

Did you all get the good news? How did you get it? Someone shared it with you!

The thing about good news is that we don't all get it at the same time. That's why it's our job to make sure we pass it along by telling others . . . even people we might not think to tell at first.

Zechariah received good news that he would have a son but he couldn't really tell anyone about it until baby John was born. But the coolest part of that story is that his son would eventually grow up and tell everyone the good news about Jesus!

Even though Jesus wasn't even born yet in today's story, the story about John's birth still shows us that **Jesus came to bring good news to the world!**



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When Zechariah wrote down that the baby should be named "John," like the angel told him to, he could speak once again! So, he started praising God. The good news was coming true!

God. The good news was coming true!

And the best part of this good news was that John would be the one who would prepare the way for Jesus later on. That's very good news!

BIG IDEA

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It's time for the Big Idea! And since we're discovering celebrations from different countries around the world, let's say that again, but in . . .
Mandarin Chinese, the world's second-most spoken language!

Are you ready? "Shì dà chuàng yì de shí hòu le!"

Well done, everyone! It is time for the Big Idea! And today's Big Idea is. . .

Jesus came to bring good news to the world!



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MEMORY VERSE

LUKE 2:14(NIV)

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to bring good news to the world. Thank you that no one is left out of your good news! May we always remember to share good news with people around us, especially the good news about you! Amen.