

Lesson 11

A Godly Home

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Luke 1:5-80

MEMORY VERSE: Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? I Corinthians 3:16

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: “Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” Psalm 127:1

CATECHISM: The Sixth Commandment: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a chaste and pure life in word and deed, and that husband and one wife love and honor each other.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- know that Zacharias and Elizabeth loved and honored God and loved and honored each other.
- believe that God cares for families

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets,

LESSON OVERVIEW: This is the story of Zacharias and Elizabeth which demonstrates a family that loved and honored God. Yet God did not bless them with children even though they had prayed for a child for many years. But God had a wonderful plan, he sent an angel to Zacharias and told him they that would have a son and he was to be named John. But Zacharias could not believe the message and because he did not believe God took his voice away until the baby was born. The child was born and when Zacharias named him John his voice was returned. Zacharias immediately praised and thanked God for keeping His promise. Marriage and a loving family are a gift from God.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What do we learn about Zachariah and Elizabeth? What message did the angel bring to Zachariah? Did Zachariah believe the news? Because Zachariah did not believe what did God do? What happened when the baby was born? How did Zachariah honor God? Who did John become? What gift does God want to give our families? How does God protect our families?

ACTIVITY 1: 5 Characters- Zacharias, Elizabeth, Gabriel, John, God. Label: 1. Z, E 2. Z, E 3. Z 4. G 5. G 6. G 7. Z 8. J 9. God 10. Z 11. God 12. J.

ACTIVITY 2: 1. God, 2. Sixth, 3. No Family, 4. sin, 5. God's, 6. families, 7. pray, 8. Families. Drawing activity.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Read Luke 1:5-80
Prayerfully study the lesson

Prayer Preparation

- Pray for the families of the children in your class, that each home may be a happy home where Christ is honored.
- Pray for each child, that they may trust in Jesus and follow Him closely in their homes.

Prepare Materials

- Activity Sheets
- Lessons

Bible Background

Luke 1:1-80

John was born into the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth, a godly home much like the home that Jesus knew. John's father was Zachariah, which means "he who remembers Jehovah," or "he whom Jehovah remembers. Zachariah was a priest and served on the weekly rotation of priests in the temple in Jerusalem, descended from Abijah, one of the divisions of the sons of Aaron when David divided the house of Eleazar and Ithamar into priestly groups (1 Chron 14:1ff).

Elizabeth ("God is my oath") was a descendent of Aaron, whose wife was Elisheba (Ex 6:23), so both of John's parents were of priestly descent. Both of them were considered righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and the requirements of the Lord" (1:6). As a young child John would have learned the scriptures and other teachings as all Jewish children did, probably to an even greater degree than other children because of his father's position.

The birth of John is miraculous in that Elizabeth was barren, even as a young woman, and now she would give birth in her old age. This is a testimony to the power of God in giving them a child for his own purpose of preparing the way for the Christ. Many Old Testament mothers were barren as were the mothers of Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Samson, Samuel and now John. All these cases bear witness to the miraculous power of God in his plan of salvation. They also show that God keeps his people waiting for a particular promise, and when it is fulfilled, they are rewarded for their patience more than they might have expected. This waiting for God is something that God's people seem to be still learning, and why patience is a gift of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22).

In the case of John (meaning "graced by God), Zechariah received the news of his son's birth while in the middle of the temple service. As to his son's name, Zechariah (like Joseph) was given specific instructions that "you shall name him John" (1:13). He was also told that John would be great in the sight of the Lord, drink no wine or liquor, be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in the womb, and be a forerunner in the spirit and power of Elijah, turning hearts to the lord (1: 15-17). All of these describe a very high calling, possible only for one who would be "graced by God."

Zachariah would have passed this on to John as well as the scriptures pertaining to the promised Messiah. John also knew his own place in God's plan when he came preaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, 'The voice of one calling out in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!'" (Mt 3:1-3).

Like he did with Jesus, Luke concisely summarizes John's early years: "Now the child grew and was becoming strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel" (Lk 1:80). John actually did introduce Jesus to the world as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn 1:29). And he suffered for it, later being beheaded by Herod (Mt 10:14).

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

Abraham: a special man of God in the Old Testament

bles: to do good to or to take wonderful care of someone. Blessings are good things that come from God and sometimes other people.

Sarah: Abraham's wife

believed: to accept something or someone as true, you can listen to someone like this for advice.

possessions: things that belong to a person

vision: A vision is like a dream that happened when the person is awake. In the Bible, God talked to people this way.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read the verse clearly,

"Do you not know you are a temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you? I Corinthians 3:16

Be sure to read it together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Sixth Commandment. See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last 2 lessons.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Show the students a map of Abraham's journey.

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. If in the sharing time you have talked about trips the students have made then this may not be needed here. Possibly expand to talk about why they went on their trip, did someone tell them to go? Was it for fun, to visit family,

Move on to the next paragraph. Questions to ask? What did God ask Abraham to do? What did He promise Abraham? What did God not tell Abraham?

Help the students find Gen 12:1-3. Read these verses. This is recorded in the Bible.

What did Abraham do? Be sure the students note the words-believed and trusted. What did God do for them as they traveled? Discuss with students the issue of trust, to pick up and move everything and not even know where you are going? Possibly share a personal experience where you had to trust someone without knowing the outcome? Also to consider that the students understand this was not just down the street, this was a long journey, probably they never returned to the place they left from. **Stress that God even though he did not give them all the details of the trip God kept His promise, He led them, He protected them, and He provided all that they needed.** He led them to the Promised land, where Israel is today. This helps the students connect the dots.

Move to the next 2 paragraphs. What did God promise Abraham? Note Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old. What did God add to this promise? Family more than the stars in the sky. Read Genesis 15:5-6. (Genesis 17:15-19) maybe helpful. God kept his promise to Abraham. God gave them a son who was named Isaac. The Israelites that Moses was leading to the Promised Land were descendants of Abraham, do you remember

how many people left Egypt? 600,00 men plus women and children. The Israelites today are called Jews and they live in Israel, the land God promised Abraham. God does keep His promises. We are blessed too in this promise God made to Abraham, we are included in all the nations as God sent Jesus to die and pay for our sins. We can know that we have eternal life in heaven with Jesus.

Read the last paragraph together. Have the students underline "trust" and "always keep His promises" in the first sentence.

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Who is Who?

Activity 1

Name the 5 characters from our lesson and then use the first letter of their names to connect them to the correct statements.

Activity 1

WHO IS WHO?

Name the five characters in our story today.

Zacharias Elizabeth
Gabriel John God

Label the statements with the correct characters. Write G (for Gabriel), Z, E, J, or God. Some may need more than one.

Z, E 1. Had a godly marriage.
Z, E 2. Prayed to God and obeyed Him.
Z 3. Served God as a priest in the temple.
G 4. Appeared to Zacharias in the temple.
G 5. Said, "Do not be afraid. God has heard your prayer."
G 6. Told Zacharias he and his wife would have a son.
Z 7. Sinned by not believing God's promise.
J 8. His name was written on a tablet.
God 9. Gave Zacharias his voice back.
Z 10. Thanked God for keeping His promise.
God 11. Gave the Sixth Commandment to protect the gift of marriage.
J 12. Grew up in a home that loved and honored God.

Word Choices

Activity 2

Circle the best answer in each sentence and then draw a picture of your family praying.

Activity 2

WORD CHOICES

Circle the best answers.

1. Marriage is a precious gift from God / Zacharias.
2. God gave the Fifth / Sixth Commandment to protect His gift of marriage.
3. No family / Every family is perfect.
4. Because of sin / God's help, families have problems.
5. Families can hear God's / our promises in the Bible.
6. The Bible helps no one / families find answers to problems.
7. We can complain / pray to God for help and forgiveness.
8. God cares for families / only a few people.

Draw a picture of your family praying to God.

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

Additional activities for a multi-age class: