



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

God gives people to guide us.

THE BIBLE

John the Baptist is Born:

Luke 1:5-25; 57-80 (John 14:26; Philippians 4:6-7)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Names and Actions
- **ACTIVITY** | Follow the Guide
- **QUESTION** | What Would You Do?
- **QUESTION** | Do you know the meaning of your name?
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God gives people to guide us.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Luke 1:5-25; 57-80
- **ACTIVITY** | Christmas Pictionary
- **OBJECT LESSON** | God's Guidance
- **SCRIPTURE** | John 14:26
- **ACTIVITY** | Missing Combination
- **RESPONSE** | Wonder Wall
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Do You Trust Me?
- **MUSIC** | Worship
- **SCRIPTURE** | Philippians 4:6-7
- **PRAYER** | Bubble Wrap Prayers
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Philippians 2:14; John 3:16

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - How do you think Zechariah felt when the angel appeared?
 - What happened to Zechariah when he didn't believe the angel?
 - If you had to go a year without talking, what would be the hardest part?
 - Can you share a time when you got surprising news that was hard to believe?
 - How have people helped guide you to Jesus?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Proverbs 3:5-6
- **ACTIVITY** | Washcloth and Candle Riddle
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Philippians 2:14; John 3:16



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God gives people to guide us.

THE BIBLE

John the Baptist is Born:

Luke 1:5-25; 57-80 (John 14:26; Philippians 4:6-7)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Names and Actions

- Welcome! We're on Week 2 of our series about stars and lights! We're learning how God guides us.
- One of the ways God guides us is through the people in our lives. We're going to get to know the people around us a little better right now!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids form circles of around ten. Tell each kid to think about an action that would describe themselves or something they like to do. When the game begins, each kid will say their name and follow with their action (e.g., One kid says, "Joe," and then pretends to swing a baseball bat). After the first kid goes, the whole group will say their name together and then do the action. Then the next person will say their name and do their action. The group will follow by saying that person's name, doing the action, and then saying Joe's name and doing his action. Continue around the circle, adding a new person's name and action and remembering the previous ones until everyone has shared. The goal is to say everyone's name and do everyone's action all the way around the circle.*
- That game was fun! **Did you think it was hard or easy to remember everyone's name and what they like to do?**
- Today, we're going to hear about a baby who was given a special name and a special job to do by God!

ACTIVITY | Follow the Guide

- We're going to play a game now to see how well you follow a guide, even if it's a little tricky or hard to follow the directions.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids instructions for actions to do (walk to the right side of the room, put your arms up to the sky, sit on the ground, etc.), but tell them things to do the opposite of what you say. If you say “Walk to the right side of the room” and you walk that way, they should walk the other way. Do the things you’re telling them to do, and see if they follow what you’re doing, or if they continue to do the opposite.
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Pair them up with a buddy during this game.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Play a quick and extreme version of Simon Says, like [this](#).
- Was it hard to listen to a leader who wasn’t giving you good direction? When God gives us direction, we can trust God. God doesn’t trick us. God guides us.
- We’re going to hear about someone from the Bible who was sent by God to guide other people.

QUESTION | What Would You Do?

- **What would you do if you heard surprising news? Are you quick to believe what you hear, or do you doubt?**
- Last week, we heard about the story of Mary and how she believed the message from God. Today, we’re going to hear another story of someone who got some big news from God.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

QUESTION | Do you know the meaning of your name?

- **Did you know that stars have names?** They do! And not just the names that we humans have for them. Psalm 147:4 says God knows how many stars there are and has given them each a name. There are stars we don’t even know about, have never even seen, but God sees them and has a name for them!
- **Do you know why your family chose your name for you? Do you have someone you were named after or a special meaning to your name?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Optional: You can use a baby name book or an online search engine to look up the meanings of kids’ names.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Use an app like the Baby Names app to look up the meaning of their names. If they don’t like the meaning of their names, ask them what they would change the meaning to if they could.
- Today, we’ll learn about Zechariah and Elizabeth and the special name they had for their baby boy. It wasn’t the name everyone thought they would choose, but, then again, Zechariah and Elizabeth never thought they would have a baby at all!

THE BIG IDEA | God gives people to guide us.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
 - Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
 - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
 - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
 - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a “hunt” for it. When it’s found, ask someone to come up and read it.

- This week's Big Idea: **God gives people to guide us.**

BIBLE STORY | Luke 1:5-25; 57-80

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** Provide small figurines of Elizabeth and Zechariah and baby John. Use the same angel from the previous week when telling the story. Illustrate with a picture of Elizabeth and Zechariah and the angel Gabriel. Many children benefit from visuals; they need to see something to comprehend it.
- Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth loved and followed God. But when an angel came to Zechariah with some crazy news, Zechariah didn't believe the angel at first!
- Zechariah was an old man, and Elizabeth and he had wanted a baby for years. The news that they were going to have a baby was very surprising!
- **Have you ever received news that you had trouble believing? What was it?**
- **What happened when Zechariah didn't believe the news from the angel?** He lost his ability to speak until the baby was born. Zechariah learned to trust God!
- Zechariah and Elizabeth knew their baby was special and a gift from God. They named him John like the angel told them to.
- John was a special person, who was sent by God to help guide people to Jesus.
- **Who are some people that have helped guide you to Jesus?**
- God sent us people to guide us. God can use us to guide people to Jesus too!

ACTIVITY | Christmas Pictionary

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print the Christmas Pictionary printable. Divide kids into small groups. Pair teams to compete against each other (you can have multiple teams competing at once for large groups). Choose a person from each team to be the one who draws and give them a word from the list to draw on a white board or big poster board. Give their team 30 seconds to guess the drawing. When they guess it, give their team a point and move to the next player.
- **How did you feel when you couldn't tell what your teammate was drawing?**
- It can be frustrating when God is doing something in our lives and we can't see the whole picture. No matter what, though, we know that God loves us and that we can trust God. God doesn't leave us without help and will always guide us, just like God sent John to guide the people to Jesus.

OBJECT LESSON | God's Guidance

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, thread a straw through a piece of string that stretches about seven feet across the room. Have a kid stand across from you and give them the string with the straw on it. Blow up a balloon without tying it, and then let go of the balloon, trying to aim for the kid. Attempt this twice. The balloon will not go in a straight line. Then, grab one end of the string while the kid holds the other. Blow up the balloon without tying it, and tape it to the bottom of the straw. Then let go of the balloon, and watch as it moves down the string to the kid in a straight line.
- We can look to God for guidance in our lives. Sometimes, we try to do things our own way, though. We're like this balloon.
- **What happened when I let go of the balloon and it wasn't on the string? Did it go the right way?** When it wasn't connected to the string, the balloon didn't go the right way. That's what happens to

us when we don't let God guide and give us direction.

- However, when we look to God, we are more like the balloon that was on the string.
- **Why did that balloon hit the target?** It had the straw to guide it.
- God gives us guidance too.
- We have the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and the people God gives us to guide us and give us direction.

SCRIPTURE | John 14:26

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- God uses the Bible and other people to guide us.
- **How else does God guide and give us direction?**

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Missing Combination

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, get two combination locks and place a different colored dot sticker on each of them. Write the combination for each lock out of order on a piece of construction paper that matches the color of the dot sticker. Be sure to keep the correct combination for each with you. Hide the locks somewhere in the room. When it's time for the game, divide the kids into two teams. Give each team one of the pieces of construction paper with the out-of-order combination. Tell them their job is to find the lock with the matching colored dot sticker to their paper and figure out the correct combination. The first team to bring back an opened lock wins. Before you say "Go," choose one team to trust you and give the other team a ten second head-start. To the team who has a delayed start, give them the combination in the correct order.
- **Which was the better strategy, to begin right away or to wait and receive the correct combination?**
- Trusting God to guide us is a lot like the team who waited to start their search for the lock.
- We may want to begin right away and do what we think is best before we look to God; however, God will always give us the right directions if we trust God.
- We can be patient and trust God to guide us.

RESPONSE | Wonder Wall

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find a space in your room to serve as your wonder wall. Set out index cards or paper stars; pens, markers, or crayons; and whatever you will use to secure the cards to the wall (such as masking tape). Allow a few minutes for the kids to think of questions that they have about life or about the Bible story and give them time to write their questions on their cards or stars. Have them tape their cards or stars on the wall.
- Saint Ignatius of Loyola, a priest who studied the Bible in the early 1500's, believed that one of the ways God can speak to us is through imagination.
- We're going to create space for you to express your wonder and imagination. After the Bible story each week, you will have the opportunity to write down a question or a "wonder" you have on an index card or paper star.
- **What do you wonder about in the story we learned from the Bible today? What questions do you have about Zechariah and Elizabeth's story?**
- Thank you, God, for the gift of the Bible so we can get to know your story. Thank you for giving us

imagination and allowing us to wonder, and thank you for the people you give to guide us. Help us to trust You, just as Zechariah and Elizabeth learned to do. Amen.

OBJECT LESSON | Do You Trust Me?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Fill a plastic bag with water and close it tight. Ask for a kid to volunteer to let you hold the bag over their head. Ask them, "Do you trust me?" Then, quickly and directly, poke the bag with a sharpened pencil. Follow one after the other with the two remaining pencils. Practice ahead of time so you can make the sharp pencils go straight through the bag without leaking any water.*
- How did you feel when you thought I was going to burst a bag full of water over your head?
- You might have been scared thinking that you would get soaked if I messed up!
- Sometimes following God can feel scary, too, but we know God never messes up!
- Zechariah and Elizabeth learned that they could trust God to do the impossible when their son John was born.

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can sing any song you like, but for this lesson we like, "Ask Seek Knock" and "Oceans" by Hillsong Kids.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Kids with special often respond well to the power of music. Give the child some extra space and allow the child to move and worship in the way God designed them. This might mean jumping up and down, flapping their arms, clapping their hands, spinning etc.*
- Trusting God isn't always easy, but we have a God who hasn't left us without a guide.
- As you worship, think about God's faithfulness in all situations.

SCRIPTURE | Philippians 4:6-7

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse and read it!*
- **According to these verses, when should we let God know what is worrying us?**
- We should never let ourselves get carried away in worry! We can always talk to God and let God know what we're nervous about.
- **What will happen when we pray and let God know our requests?**
- God promises to send us peace that we can't even understand when we turn to God instead of worrying.

PRAYER | Bubble Wrap Prayers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cut the bubble wrap into small squares. Give each kid a square of bubble wrap and have them lay it on the floor in front of them. Invite the kids to pick up their sheets of bubble wrap and pop the bubbles. You could also use real bubbles instead of bubble wrap. Blow the bubbles and let the kids pop them.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Set this up as a prayer station. Give them paper to write their worries, then place the bubble wrap over it and have them pop the bubble wrap as they pray and ask God to help them with the things they're worried about.*
- Sometimes things happen in our lives that are confusing or hard. When those times come and we don't know what God is doing, we can feel really anxious and worried.. Just as Zechariah and Elizabeth learned, God gives us people to guide us.
- Imagine each of the bubbles on your sheet are like the pockets of worry you might feel inside. When

you choose to give up your worry and trust God instead, those bubbles of worry can go “pop” and disappear!

- In just a moment, as we pop the bubbles on our sheets, let’s imagine our worries “popping” away too.

MEMORY VERSES | Philippians 2:14; John 3:16

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you’d like.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- How do you think Zechariah felt when the angel appeared?
- How would you feel if an angel suddenly appeared to you?
- What happened to Zechariah when he didn’t believe the angel? (He couldn’t talk.)
- If you had to go a year without talking, what would be the hardest part?
- Can you share a time when you got surprising news that was hard to believe?
- What did the angel say God had chosen John to do? (Prepare people to meet Jesus.)
- How have people helped guide you to Jesus?

SCRIPTURE | Proverbs 3:5-6

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!
- Why is it hard to trust God with our whole heart sometimes?
- What does it mean that God will help make our paths straight?
- How have you seen God guide you when you trusted in Him?

ACTIVITY | Washcloth and Candle Riddle

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place a washcloth and candle inside a brown paper bag for each small group. Tell the kids the riddle and give kids a chance to guess the answers. The first riddle is “I have something in this bag that gets wetter and wetter the more it dries.” The answer is: a washcloth. The second riddle is: I have something in this bag that grows shorter and shorter as it grows older.” The answer is: a candle.
- **If I told you that I had something in this bag that gets wetter and wetter the more it dries, would you believe me?**
- I know it seems impossible that something could get wetter as it dries, but it’s true! See this washcloth? It is dry now, but if I were to get my hands wet and use this washcloth to dry them, the washcloth would get wetter and wetter as I dry my hands.
- **How about this: if I told you that I have something in this bag that grows shorter as it grows older, would you believe me?**
- That one seems pretty impossible too, but I can prove it isn’t!
- See this candle? When it’s “young” and hasn’t been used; it’s as tall as it will ever be. Then, as it gets

“older” and is used to provide light, it gets shorter.

- **After I had proven that the first riddle with the washcloth was true, was it easier to believe me the second time? Did you have any doubts that what was in the bag would grow shorter as it grew older?**
- God has shown over and over that He is trustworthy, even when something seemed impossible. Remember Zechariah and Elizabeth’s story? They thought it would be impossible for them to have a baby in their old age, but the promise was kept. We can trust God to keep promises too.

MEMORY VERSES | Philippians 2:14; John 3:16

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