

Bible background

Luke 1:5 - 2:7

Aim of lesson

To show that Jesus is the Son of God.

To show that we should always believe what God says.

Preparation required

You will need colouring materials, scissors and glue.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Begin the lesson by explaining that Zechariah and Elizabeth had wanted a baby for a long time. One day God sent an angel to Zechariah to tell him that very soon Elizabeth would have a son and they were to call him John.
2. Go on to tell what happened to Zechariah. Discuss how Zechariah would have communicated with people. Show how often we use signs to tell people things (i.e. shaking/nodding head, wagging finger, etc) Can they think of any more?
3. Tell the children that Elizabeth's cousin Mary also had a visit from an angel to tell her that she was going to have a baby, and that her baby was going to be very special - do the children know why?
4. Continue the story about John's birth and Zechariah being able to speak again and go on to tell the children about the birth of Jesus, giving as much detail as you feel appropriate for your class.
5. Get the children to act the scene in which John's name is written on a writing tablet by Zechariah. Note that Zechariah was almost certainly (Luke 1:62) deaf as well as dumb.

Alternative activities

1. Miming games: when Zechariah couldn't speak how would he ask for a drink, some water to wash his hands, food? How would he explain that he was tired, cold, hot etc? Mime an everyday action – can the children guess what it is? Some children may be able to think of an action to do for the rest of the class to guess.
2. Have an assortment of objects in front of you e.g. pen, comb, toothbrush, book, cup, spoon, soap. (You can be inventive in your choice!) Mime using one of the objects and then point to a child who must hand you the object you need. Repeat, choosing a different child to guess. After a few turns you will probably be able to let the children take the lead with the actions.

Relevance to the children's lives

Mary trusted God when he made a promise to her. We must trust God's promises in the Bible, and be like Mary and not like Zechariah had been when he first saw the angel.

Prayer

Can the children think what Zechariah would have prayed once he could speak again.

Verse

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. Luke 1:38.