



WEEK TWO – DECEMBER 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *The Weary World Rejoices* • Luke 1:5–25; 57–80

Bottom Line: *You can have joy because anything is possible with God.*

Memory Verse: “Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!”
Philippians 4:4

Life App: *Joy—Finding a way to be happy, even when things don’t go your way*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: In Week Two, we head to Luke 1:5–25; 57–80 where we find Zechariah and Elizabeth. They were unable to have children. On top of that, they were older and it seemed impossible that they’d ever have a child of their own. But one day an angel came to Zechariah and told him that he would indeed have a son, and that son would prepare the way for the Promised One, Jesus. Zechariah and Elizabeth learned that anything is possible with God.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Paper; crayons

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Give each kid a piece of paper and some crayons.
- Tell them to draw a picture of the craziest thing they've ever seen someone do.
 - (If necessary, remind kids to keep it appropriate.)
- Allow kids to share their pictures and stories with each other.

2. True or False Stories

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “True or False Stories” Activity Page, Bible

What You Do:

- Designate one side of your Small Group area as the “false” side and one side as the “true” side.
- Read the first story from the Activity Page.
- Allow time for kids to move to the side of their choice before revealing whether it was true or false.
- Encourage kids to make their own decisions, instead of following whatever their friends think.
- Continue with the rest of the stories.
- Two of the stories are from the Bible. If kids show interest in these stories, and you have time, look them up and read them to the group.

What You Say:

*“Those were some crazy stories that seemed impossible, but they were all true. Well, all but the one that was ALMOST true! I kind of tricked you on that one. **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group where we’ll hear another story that will almost seem impossible.**”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *You can have joy because anything is possible with God. We will face some difficult moments throughout our lives. But no matter what we face, we can find joy because God can do anything. He may still allow us to go through whatever we're facing, but He'll be with us and will give us what we need to get through it.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Finish the Pictures

[Bible Story Review]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Finish the Pictures” Activity Pages; pencils; crayons

What You Do:

- Give each kid an Activity Page and a pencil.
- Ask kids what they think is going on in the first picture.
- Tell kids to connect the dots to finish the picture.
- Review what happened during that part of today's Bible story.
- Repeat for each picture.
- Brief synopsis for each picture:
 - Picture 1: The priest Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth followed God's commands. But they were old and had no children.
 - Picture 2: Zechariah was chosen as the priest who got to go into the temple and burn incense before God. While he was there, an angel appeared to him and told him he would have a son who would prepare the way for the Messiah. He was to name this baby John. Zechariah didn't believe it could happen, so the angel said Zechariah wouldn't be able to speak until the baby was born.
 - Picture 3: Zechariah came out of the temple, but he couldn't speak, so he had to use gestures to try to get people to understand what had happened. He returned home, and his wife became pregnant.
 - Picture 4: Elizabeth had the baby, and she was full of joy! She said the baby was to be named John, but the people didn't believe her. Finally, Zechariah was able to speak, and he told everyone that the baby's name really would be John, and then he praised God.
- If you have time, let kids color the pictures.

What You Say:

*“What an interesting Bible story we had today! Think about the oldest woman you know. It might be a great-grandparent or someone here at church. Now imagine that person having a baby. Impossible, right? But nothing is impossible with God, as Zechariah and Elizabeth found out. Even though they were old, God gave them a baby—and not just any baby, but a baby who would grow up to get people ready for Jesus. **[Bottom Line] You can have joy because anything is possible with God.**”*

2. Silent Relay

[Memory Verse Activity]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Memory Verse Phrases” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Shuffle each set of phrases, and place them in two piles upside down at one end of your space.
- Tell kids that they’re going to get into two teams, run down one at a time to retrieve the phrases, and then put them in order.
- Explain that they will need to do all of that WITHOUT talking, just like Zechariah couldn’t talk in today’s story. They can only use gestures.
 - *NOTE: Be sensitive to any kids in your group who have speech and/or hearing problems.*
- Tell kids when to start. If things get out of hand, or kids have trouble with any portion of the activity, feel free to give a few words of guidance as they go along. (They might have trouble especially with the “divide into two teams” part.)
- Continue until each team has put the verse in order.
- Break the silence by saying the verse aloud together.

What You Say:

*“It’s not easy to not be able to speak, is it? But even when things aren’t easy, we can have joy. Zechariah had joy about the upcoming birth of his baby and the Messiah, even though He couldn’t speak. Why? He knew He could have joy because anything is possible with God. And **[Bottom Line] YOU can have joy because anything is possible with God!**”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit or stand in a circle.
- Tell kids they will each pray for the person to their left.
- Say the prayer below, and let kids repeat it after you.
- “God, help _____ remember he/she can have joy because anything is possible with You!”

What You Say:

(Point to one kid and say the Bottom Line.) [Bottom Line] “YOU can have joy because anything is possible with God. (Repeat for each kid.) Isn’t that so amazing? God can do ANYTHING, and that gives me so much joy!”

As adults arrive to pick up, don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!