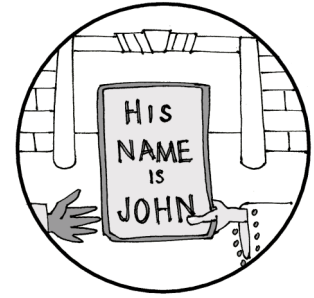


Lesson #2-16***The Birth of John the Baptist***

Luke 1:5-13 [14-25], 57-80

**Key Verse:**

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare [God’s] ways.”

Luke 1:76

The Point:

God sends people to point us toward Jesus.

Advent Theme (December 1—December 25)

Promises Made, Promises Kept

Answered Prayers

Discuss ways that God answers prayers.

You will need:

- † White board or mural paper
- † Markers

Instructions:

1. **God answered Zechariah and Elizabeth’s prayer in a very obvious way. God hears and answers our prayers, too, but not always in such a dramatic way.**
2. **What are some things that people pray for?**
Record the list on mural paper or white board.
3. **Other than with a big, miraculous answer, what are other ways God can answer prayers?**
Record answers on a separate piece of mural paper or separate section of the white board.
[Through other people’s words or actions, through Scripture pointed out to us, in natural phenomena, by nothing happening, through a sense of the right answer in ourselves.]
4. **Discuss with those near you some things you are praying for. Allow anyone to speak who would like to but allow people to pass if they would rather not speak.** Allow five minutes for conversation.
5. **We are going to take some time to worship and pray quietly together. During this time, pray for those needs that you heard around you or that are on your own heart.** If anyone would like the large group to pray for them, you can write these requests on the mural paper or white board as well.
6. You may choose to play music quietly in the background.
7. **We do not know how God will answer our prayers, so it is important to trust God and to spend time in prayer and worship together. We will continue praying for one another during and after our offering.**

**Lesson #2-C1***The Promised Messiah Arrives*

Luke 2:1-20

**Key Verse:**

“To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the LORD.”

Luke 2:10-11

The Point:

Fulfilling God's promise, the Messiah is born for all people.

Advent Theme (December 1—December 25)

Promises Made, Promises Kept

Litany

Discuss ways that God answers prayers.

This litany is built on a choral response to the proclamation of the incarnation. For greater effect, you can invite the congregation to build in their response. Have the first row or table say the first “Glory to God in the Highest” alone. Then add rows or tables progressively, until the entire congregation is involved by the end.

Leader: On a night long ago, the world changed.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: The God who created the universe came to dwell in it, and chose to make an entrance in a dark, humble barn, surrounded by animals and their humble caretakers.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Suddenly, the stars did not seem so far away.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Suddenly, the angels did not seem so distant.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Suddenly, it was possible for God in heaven to become God with us.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: Suddenly God has become one of us and one with us.

All: Glory to God in the highest!

Leader: And now, we can sing with the angels...

All: Glory to God in the highest!