

Luke 1:1-25

Get Ready!

Scripture: Luke 1:1-25

Memory Verse: Luke 1:17 *“He will...make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”*

Lesson Focus: With Christmas just a couple of weeks away we want the kids to have hearts that adore Jesus and are ready to commemorate His coming to earth to save us. We will talk about the usual external ways we get ready for Christmas (i.e. lights, decorations, presents) and then challenge the kids in the spirit of John the Baptist to get their hearts ready as well.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of baby John, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for all grades: O Come Let Us Adore Him Ornament

Starter Activity: Get Ready Game *

We will provide you with a bunch of Scrabble letters to play a relay game. Break your kids up into at least two groups and have them be on one side of the area. On the other side of the area, put out piles of letters for each group. Then have the kids one-by-one race to fetch letters to spell out our “**GET READY**” theme. The first child will need to find a “G”, and when he comes back, the next child will need to run and find the “E”, etc. Write the phrase on the white board in big letters so each kid knows which letter to get next. The first team to spell it out wins! We will provide you with two sets of letters that have enough of each to spell it out. As an alternative, introduce the phrase by playing a game of “Hangman” with the kids (or do both!). Afterwards have some discussion:

Q: What are some things that you might **GET READY** for? A: School, church, vacation.

Q: What are some things you do to get ready for these?

We are in the month of December now. That means that lots and lots of people are **GETTING READY** for.....CHRISTMAS!

Q: What does it look like to **GET READY** for Christmas?

A: Lights, presents, etc.

I love Christmas and I think it is great that we celebrate with a lot of these things. But why is Christmas such a big deal? Because it is when we remember God Himself came down to earth to seek and to save sinners like you and me!

Today we are going to read about someone whose mission and job it was to tell people to **GET READY** for what God began at the very first Christmas!

Bible Study:

Luke 1:1-3: This is the beginning of Luke's account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is very important to notice that Luke does not begin His account with "Once Upon a Time".

Q: What kind of story begins with "Once Upon a Time"? A: A fairy tale! A story that is not about REAL people and REAL places.

Boys and Girls: Luke was a REAL person (a doctor) * who wrote down VERY CAREFULLY (v. 3) the details of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection!

Q: Luke talks about eyewitnesses. What is an eyewitness?

A: Someone who was there and who saw what happened.

Luke 1:4: Here is why Luke wrote his account: So that you may be CERTAIN that it is true!

Q: What does it mean to be CERTAIN about something? *

A: It means you are absolutely SURE of its truth and can TRUST in it! (Teachers: Consider giving the kids a simple quiz and have them tell you whether they are CERTAIN that it is true. For example: $2+2=4$, tomorrow it will rain, I have 10 fingers)

Luke wants you to be just as CERTAIN about Jesus and all He did and said! *

Teachers: Consider first reading **Luke 1:5-25** straight through. See the pictures of the characters and places (taken from Superbook: Herod, Zechariah, Elizabeth, Gabriel, John the Baptist, and the Temple) that we provided. These pictures might help you reinforce that these are REAL people and places and not fairy tales! * After reading all the way through, then come back and go deeper through the individual sections.

Luke 1:5-7: Notice that Luke gives REAL details here.

Q: Who are some of the REAL people that Luke mentions here? Teachers: As you work through each character with the kids, bring out the picture and talk about the character a little bit. Consider asking the kids how the text described them. (i.e. Herod was the ruler of the land, Zacharias was a priest, Elizabeth had no children, etc.)

Luke 1:8-10: Now we get some details about a REAL place: the temple.

Q: Where did it say Zacharias went? A: Into the temple. This was the center of worship for all of God's people during the time of Jesus. Teachers: Consider showing the picture of the temple as you teach through these verses.

Luke 1:11-13: Now our last two characters enter the text: the angel Gabriel and baby John the Baptist. Teachers: See the pictures included.

Q: What did the angel tell Zacharias and Elizabeth they were going to have?

A: A baby boy! They are old and have prayed for this and the Lord is finally answering! God answered their prayer even though they were old and beyond child-bearing years!

Q: Is anything too hard for God? A: NOPE!

Luke 1:14-16: God has a special mission and job for this little boy when he grows up! This last verse says that he will TURN many people back to the Lord their God. For hundreds of years, the people of the Old Testament who were God's special people had ignored and rejected God and His word. But when baby John grows up, God would use him to get their attention and turn their hearts back toward Himself. The big Bible word for this is: REPENTANCE. *

Teachers: Consider calling on a volunteer to demonstrate what this job looks like. Have the child stand next to you but then have him/her slowly walk away from you with his/her back turned to you. At some point shout to them: STOP! TURN AROUND! COME BACK! God used people like John and the prophets to urge people to REPENT. *

This boy would be known as John the Baptist. * John taught the people to TURN back to God and to get baptized to show that their repentance was real. We are proclaiming a very similar thing when we get baptized.

Q: How many of you have been baptized? *

Luke 1:17: Notice the last part of this verse. It says that John the Baptist will make ready a people prepared for the Lord. God wants people to GET READY for what He will do!

Remember at the beginning of the lesson we talked about how we GET READY for Christmas. What do we celebrate at Christmas? The birth of Jesus Christ!

What does **John 3:16** say? God was getting ready to GIVE His only Son so that people would TURN to Him, be forgiven their sins, and become HIS people! Jesus was about to be born into the world! The Son of God was coming! God was sending John the Baptist to get people ready for Him!

Key Point: We talked about how we GET READY for Christmas by setting up lights, decorating trees, etc. This is all fine and fun, but that all happens outside of us. God would also want us to GET READY inside, in our hearts.

There is a famous Christmas carol that goes like this, "*O Come Let Us Adore Him*".

Q: Do you *adore* Him? If so, what are some ways that you can show that you *adore* Jesus this week? *

GET READY for Christmas by adoring Jesus Christ. Be amazed that God loved you enough to send His only Son for you!

Bring It Home

(Devotional for the Family)

Lesson Theme: “Get Ready!” (Part 1)

Scripture: Luke 1:1-25

Memory Verse: Luke 1:17 *“He will...make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”*

Teachers/Parents: In class we talked a lot about how we get ready for Christmas. What are some ways that you as a family get ready for Christmas? Discuss together what some of your favorite traditions are and what makes them so special!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **Luke 1:1-4**. In class we emphasized how important it is that the account of Jesus’s birth and life does not begin with *“Once Upon a Time”*. If the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus was only a fairy tale, would you be a Christian? Why or why not?
- 2) Look more closely at **Luke 1:4**. What did Luke say his purpose for writing this account of Jesus was? What are some things that you are certain or sure of? Do you have a similar certainty about Jesus Christ?
- 3) Read **Luke 1:5**. Notice that there are many REAL details described here showing that this is REAL history. What are some of the people, places, and times described? Why do you think this is important? (See Question #1)
- 4) Read **Luke 1:8-12**. Zacharias was going about his priestly duties when suddenly an angel appeared to him. How did he respond in v. 12? Imagine yourself in Zacharias’s position. Why do you think he felt that way? How do you think you would have responded if the angel came to you?
- 5) In **Luke 1:16** we see that John the Baptist was appointed to TURN people to God. Discuss what you think it means to TURN to God. Read **Zechariah 1:3**. What do you think it looks like to TURN to God? See also **Jeremiah 32:33**.
- 6) At the end of **Luke 1:17**, we see John the Baptist was also appointed to tell people to GET READY for the coming of the Lord. For as **John 3:16** says, God was “GETTING READY” to give His only Son to the world. Wow! This was the first Christmas! With this in mind, what is something you can do to get YOUR HEART ready for Christmas this year?