



SESSION 1

BIBLE STORY SKIT

God Gives Us Jesus

Materials: None.

Preparation: None.

Characters

Zechariah (zehk-uh-RI-uh): Priest in God's Temple

Angel: Messenger from God

Elizabeth: Zechariah's wife

Narrator

Scene One: God's Temple

Zechariah: *(Enters.)* What an honor it is to serve God in His Temple! Now then, where is that incense?
(Angel enters.) Wait a minute! Who are you?

Angel: I am an angel of the Lord, Zechariah. I have a message from God.

Zechariah: You know, I was just telling Elizabeth that in our boring village nothing happens. Now, I meet a CRAZY person!

Angel: I am not a crazy person, Zechariah. I am an ANGEL of the LORD. I repeat: I have a message for you from God. Do you want to hear it or not?

Zechariah: Sure. I have nothing to lose. Go ahead crazy person—I mean, ANGEL. What's the message?

Angel: The Lord has heard the prayer that you and your wife, Elizabeth, have been praying for many years. God is going to give you a son.

Zechariah: Hold it! Don't go any further. I know you're not an angel. That bit's been done before.

Angel: I beg your pardon?

Zechariah: Does the name Abraham mean anything to you? He was very old and so was Sarah, but God promised to give them a son.

Angel: AND?

Zechariah: Well now. That's called a miracle. Something that only happens ONCE. God already did that one.

Angel: What makes you think a miracle can only happen once?

Zechariah: Well, if something happens again and again, it's hardly unusual. It's natural. And miracles are SUPERnatural.

Angel: How long ago did this miracle happen to Abraham?

Zechariah: Well, I'm not sure. About two thousand years ago?

Angel: Do you call something that happens once every two thousand years COMMONplace?

Zechariah: Well, no . . .

Angel: Then PLEASE stop interrupting me and let me get on with the message. *(Formally.)* Ahem. You will have a son and you will name him John. He will speak with spirit and power to prepare the people to meet the Lord.

Zechariah: *(Pause.)* I must admit, that is some message. *(Awed, imagining.)* My son—a great prophet and preacher! But there's still the problem of my age—and Elizabeth's. How can I be SURE you're an angel? What if I tell everybody I'll have a son and three years later . . . nothing? People will say, "That's crazy old Zechariah who talks to ANGELS." No, I think I'll hold off on the birth announcements for a while.

Angel: Don't worry—you will not be making any birth announcements. As a sign to you that what I say is, indeed, a message from

God, from this moment until all these things have happened, you will not be able to speak.

(Angel exits.)

Narrator: And at that moment, Zechariah became mute. He could not utter a word, not even when he returned home. *(Zechariah exits.)*

Scene Two: Zechariah's house

Elizabeth: *(Elizabeth enters and pretends to tidy up. Zechariah enters a moment later.)* Hello, my husband. Did you have a nice day at work? *(Pause.)* What's the matter? *(Zechariah pretends to write something.)* Oh, we're going to play a guessing game! OKAY, you're writing something. A book. This is the name of a book. No? A writer. That's it. You're a writer. No? You're not very good at this game. *(Pause.)* Wait! This ISN'T a guessing game. You want to write something and you need a pen and paper. Well, why didn't you say so? Speak up, man. What is it? *(Zechariah exits with Elizabeth following and still talking.)* Why do you want a pen and paper? Just tell me what's going on!

Narrator: The angel Gabriel visited others besides Zechariah.

Scene Three: Mary's house

Angel: *(Enters and speaks as if to Mary.)* Fear not, Mary, for you have found great favor with God. I am the angel Gabriel and I have been sent to bring you good news. You will bear a child and shall name Him Jesus.

Narrator: Bubbling with excitement, Mary went to visit her relative Elizabeth.

Scene Four: Zechariah's house

Elizabeth: *(Enters, pretends to open a door. Speaks as if to someone on the other side of the door.)* Hello, Mary. I'm so glad to have a visitor. That husband of mine hasn't said a word for six months! But

you don't have to tell me why you're here. I know! You're going to have a baby, too. A baby specially blessed by God. And, Mary, the baby inside me jumped for joy when I heard your voice. What did Joseph have to say about all this? Come inside and tell me all about it. Let me help you with your bags. *(Exits through pretend door.)*

Narrator: Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months. In the meantime, God made SURE that Joseph would believe what Mary told him.

Scene Four: Joseph's house

Angel: *(Enters and speaks as if to Joseph.)* Joseph! I am an angel of the Lord. Do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. The child inside her is from God. This baby will be a boy, and you shall name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Narrator: Soon, Elizabeth's child was born.

Elizabeth: *(Enters and speaks as if to someone offstage.)* Yes, we're excited and so pleased. *(Pause.)* We're going to name him John. *(Zechariah enters. Elizabeth turns to him.)* Zechariah, our friends think it's strange that we're naming the baby John. Please tell them, Zechariah. *(Sighs again.)* I mean, WRITE for them. Everyone look. *(She points over Zechariah's shoulder as he writes.)* He's writing, "His . . . name . . . is . . . John."

Zechariah: At last! I can speak again! Praise God! It's just as the angel said it would be! God is sending us a Savior, and this child will prepare His way!

Elizabeth: *(Shrugs.)* Well, there goes the peace and quiet.