

CHRISTMAS

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

1
ZECHARIAH IS LEFT SPEECHLESS

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



ZECHARIAH IS LEFT SPEECHLESS

Memory Verse:

The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen.
(James 5:16b NIV)

Lesson Goals:

- #1 - Understand how ordinary Zechariah was
- #2 - Discover what obedience led Zechariah to do
- #3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners
Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

Luke 1:5-25, 39-45, 57-80



ZECHARIAH IS LEFT SPEECHLESS

Luke 1:5-25, 39-45, 57-80

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Zechariah

His Heroic Feat: Prayed For a Son

Praying for a son may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

"In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah . . ." (Luke 1:5 NIV) He was married to a woman named Elizabeth. Zechariah and Elizabeth were very old. They had no children, but they obeyed God; "they did everything the Lord commanded and were without fault in keeping His law." (Luke 1:6 NCV) As a priest of God, Zechariah would take turns serving in the temple in Jerusalem. He would burn incense in the temple. And when it was time for the incense to be burned, people would gather together outside of the temple and pray.

"Then an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah, standing on the right side of the incense table." (Luke 1:11 NCV) It was the angel Gabriel and Zechariah was terrified. "But the angel said to him, 'Zechariah, don't be afraid. God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to a son and you will name him John.'" (Luke 1:13 NCV) Then Gabriel explained what they could expect. John would bring joy, gladness and happiness to many because of his birth. Many people were going to return to God because of him. John would be filled with the Holy Spirit from the time he began to be formed inside of his mom and he would be great for the Lord!

And even though he had prayed for a son and God had sent His angel, Zechariah still had a hard time believing God was going to answer those prayers now! "How can I know that what you say is true?" he asked Gabriel. "I am an old man, and my wife is old, too." (Luke 1:18 NCV)

For the angel Gabriel, though, it was enough that he was God's messenger. He had stood before the God of the universe and received the good news he shared with Zechariah. "Now listen!" Gabriel said. "You will not be able to speak until the day these things happen, because you did not believe what I told you. But they will really happen." (Luke 1:20 NCV) And when Zechariah finally left the Temple, for he had been there a long time, the people outside were waiting. When they realized Zechariah couldn't speak they knew he had seen a vision.

Zechariah's wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant just like the angel Gabriel said she would. And "when it was time for Elizabeth to give birth, she had a boy." (Luke 1:57 NCV) As the time came for naming the newborn, others wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father. Elizabeth protested, "No! He will be named John." (Luke 1:60 NCV) That did not make any sense to the people who were gathered; no one in Elizabeth's family was named John. Why in the world would she want to name the baby John?

"Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote, 'His name is John,' and everyone was surprised." (Luke 1:63 NCV) That was when Zechariah received his speech back and he began to praise God. Then he was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak about the future. "God be praised! He has given us a Savior from David's family. He promised to do this and He will." (Luke 1:68-75) Zechariah also spoke about John's future. "Child, you'll be a prophet of the Most High God. You will prepare the way of the Lord. You will let people know that they can be saved by having their sins forgiven. It's a new day from heaven; light shining in the dark that will guide us to the path of peace." (Luke 1:76-79)

As people talked about the events of John's birth, they began to wonder, "What will this child be?" It was evident that God was with John. And all of it was an answer to Zechariah's prayer for a son!



YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Zechariah prayed for a son. Our memory verse says, "The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen." (James 5:16b NlrV)

God heard Zechariah's prayers. When the time came to name his son, the Holy Spirit came upon Zechariah. By the power of God's Spirit Zechariah was able to tell what John's future would be like. By God's Spirit, you can do amazing things, too.

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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Zechariah was in the Temple a long time. When he finally left the Temple the people outside were waiting. When they realized Zechariah couldn't speak they knew he had seen a vision.

Zechariah's wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant just like the angel Gabriel said she would. And "when it was time for Elizabeth to give birth, she had a boy." When Zechariah named him John, he received his speech back and he began to praise God. And all of it was an answer to Zechariah's prayer for a son!

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Print the memory verse on small chalkboards or black construction paper. Be sure to include the Scripture reference.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "Go Tell it On the Mountain," "Holy, Holy, Holy," "O, Come All Ye Faithful" or other Christmas songs related to the lesson.
- Make birth announcements for John the Baptist. Print the memory verse on each one.
- **For more training:** Zechariah's prayers were heard. When his wife couldn't have children, Zechariah knew who to turn to . . . God. Who do you turn to in trouble? Does God hear your prayers? Read and discuss Psalm 66:18 in light of our lesson and Zechariah and Elizabeth's righteousness.
- **For more training:** Read and discuss Revelation 5:8 in light of Zechariah's prayers and his job at the time of the angel visitation.

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of a godly person
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happen.

James 5:16

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Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

HERO IN TRAINING

Zechariah is Left Speechless

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 **Mission**[®]
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Taking church to the people

HERO TRAINING!

Scripture:

Luke 1:5-25, 39-45, 57-80

Memory verse:

The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen.
(James 5:16b NIV)

Our Hero: _____

What did our hero do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess? _____

Do you have the power? _____

Read Isaiah 40:3 and John 1:19-34. How do these verses connect with our lesson? What happened as a result of Zechariah's prayer?

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Read the verse backwards . . . starting at the bottom right! Write the
memory verse in the spaces below.

61:5 semaJ
.neppah sgniht sekam tl
.lufrewop si nosrep yldog a fo reyarp ehT

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-----.
-----:

WORD

SEARCH!

N F L H J P T S P G F H B
R A N G E L G A B R I E L
U I E D L I H C A O R L I
T T P N H A D E Y A R P N
E H U E E F A M E N E M C
R F F I L E R U R E V I L
L U I T E L I Z A B E T H
L L R A W B H L N S V E U
I A L P S C Q I S S U N D
W R A S E V U S W P B A S
S S P E E C H L E S S N L
U A E Z E C H A R I A H K
S E E O T A E L E A R O W
E T D G O R S R D D E J N
J H L A S T D A Y S T U G

- Zechariah

- faithful

- prayed

- Elizabeth

- angel Gabriel

- prayer answered

- a child

- John

- speechless

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
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James 5:16

WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page

N	F	L	H	J	P	T	S	P	G	F	H	B
R	A	N	G	E	L	G	A	B	R	I	E	L
U	I	E	D	L	I	H	C	A	O	R	L	I
T	T	P	N	H	A	D	E	Y	A	R	P	N
E	H	U	E	E	F	A	M	E	N	E	M	C
R	F	F	I	L	E	R	U	R	E	V	I	L
L	U	I	T	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H
L	L	R	A	W	B	H	L	N	S	V	E	U
I	A	L	P	S	C	Q	I	S	S	U	N	D
W	R	A	S	E	V	U	S	W	P	B	A	S
S	S	P	E	E	C	H	L	E	S	S	N	L
U	A	E	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	K
S	E	E	O	T	A	E	L	E	A	R	O	W
E	T	D	G	O	R	S	R	D	D	E	J	N
J	H	L	A	S	T	D	A	Y	S	T	U	G

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