

Adventures with GOD!

INTRODUCTION: GOD'S WORD (B.3.SPRING)

LESSONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 6-8

GOALS FOR THE TRIMESTER: Learn about the life of Jesus Christ from Luke's point of view. Discover the supernatural encounters that people experienced detailed in the book of Luke. Make personal decisions about following Jesus.

MESSAGE FOR THE TEACHER:

In this trimester, children will explore the Gospel of Luke and investigate Jesus' life from before and after his birth, through his childhood, adult life, ministry, death, and resurrection. As you investigate and discover the stories of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, you will find something amazing: heaven and earth connect in the person of Jesus Christ; people experience God in supernatural ways. Normal people, even people who were considered on the fringe of society, come face to face with angels, with the prophet of the Messiah (John the Baptist), and with Jesus himself (the son of God).

The Gospel of Luke is like a script in a well-written play, accompanied by a choir of angels. It's amazing to see people who never imagined they would be a part of God's story all of the sudden have the spot light turned on them. There is a priest interceding for the people, a young woman waiting for her wedding, an elderly woman suddenly pregnant, a centurion soldier desperate to find healing for his servant, the widow who's only son died, a woman possessed by seven demons, a despised tax collector offered the opportunity of a lifetime, humble shepherds invited to a "baby shower," and a rich coward who doesn't show his allegiance to Jesus until after Jesus' death.



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The wonderful news is that this story is still playing out in our world today. This bright, eternal light illuminates our lives. The Gospel of Luke speaks about the encounters between humanity and divinity. And if we are attentive to the work of God in the world and our own lives, we will see those radiant encounters between humanity and divinity still today.

The stories in this trimester are to be “experienced,” to be dramatic and full of life. The central character of the story comes out of a “time machine” of sorts to tell the story of their life and encounter with God. How the story is told can vary – an interview, a dialogue as if the person was talking on the radio, a round table with the members of the group asking questions, a news program about the latest happenings from the book of Luke. Be creative! Get the children involved in telling and experiencing these stories.

Another essential part of this trimester is the memorization of Scripture and Key Verses found in each lesson. Each week, get creative with the different ways children learn the verses: reading in unison, erasing words, puzzles, hidden words, etc.

Lastly, the application of what the word of God has to say to children about their lives is an important part of the trimester. It’s easy to get caught up in the stories and activities without taking the time to talk to students and listen to what they’re hearing and learning. What insights do children bring about the amazing story of God coming to earth in the person of Jesus? What do they learn from the story of Mary? Of Zaccheaus? In Luke we see people having an encounter with God and their lives are transformed. As a result, women are healed and follow Jesus, a demon-possessed man is freed and becomes a missionary to testify God’s good news in the region, the humble shepherds announce the good news of Jesus’ birth, etc. Each of us has the opportunity to respond to Jesus. What will our response be? Will we simply observe or will we participate in the story?



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Have fun exploring the themes in this trimester. Observe how the stories, Key Verses, games, and activities work together to tell the story. All of these moving parts help children to think through the ways Scripture applies to their lives, and what they will do with what they learned. May children encounter God in a new and dynamic way each week.

MURAL

One way to help tell the story each week is by adding different figures (or images, words, names) to a mural. At the beginning you'll add the people connected to Jesus' birth, and as the weeks go by, you'll add the other people included in the Gospel of Luke. You can either make a continuous timeline, or just add different scenes to different walls around the room.

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INFORMATION SHEET

Biblical References about the life of Luke, the gospel writer.

Colossians 4:7-14 – Paul lists his collaborators, including Luke, the doctor.

Acts 16:10-11 – Luke joins Paul in Troas. It's the first time the author uses the first person plural, "we", instead of using the third person.

Acts 20:5-6 – Encounters Paul again

Acts 27:38, 28:1, 16, 30, 31 – Writes about his journeys with Paul

Philemon 24 – One of the letters where Paul mentions Luke

2 Timothy 4:11 – Paul is imprisoned in Rome, but only Luke is with him.

Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-3 – Luke, the only non-Jewish author of the Scriptures, takes his place as a historian.

In the book of Luke we find:

1. Jesus is referred to as the Son of Man.
2. A detailed record of the conception and birth of John the Baptist and Jesus.
3. More than 50% of the material in this book is not included in the other Gospels.
4. The vocabulary used is refined and very specific. He was a well-educated man.
5. It has a very human focus, very compassionate.
6. Some of the themes that reappear are: angels, joy, song, women, children, the Holy Spirit, prayer, kingdom of God.

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INFORMATION SHEET 2

Time machine

Create some sort of “time machine” so that each week, the central character from the Gospel of Luke can come into the present and share a bit of his or her story with the children.

Consider decorating a large refrigerator box (using buttons, colored paper, streamers, yarn, wire, aluminum foil, etc.). Involve the children in creating the time machine. Allow children to participate in the creative process of making the time machine.

Another option is to use a sheet or blanket. In the same way, allow children to use different materials to creatively decorate the time machine. Encourage children to make sound effects for the time machine.

