

# CHRISTMAS

Seeing God's Great Plan  
GRAD206, Christmas Week 1

**December 13, 2020**

**Grades 4-5**

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**Session Title:** Seeing God's Great Plan

**Bible Passage:** Luke 1:23-56

**Take Away:** God's plan in sending Jesus was to send a deliverer to His people to give hope in eternal life to the world.

**December 4/5 Memory Verse:** *"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David and Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.'" Luke 2:10-14*

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## THINK

**Materials:** building blocks, Tinker Toys, Legos, Butcher paper, drawing supplies

### The Plan

Today students will learn about a plan—God's plan. The Jews had been anticipating this plan for centuries; they were longing for the coming of the Messiah. Students will relate to their own experiences when they, too, have anticipated things. We want the students to sense, as did Mary and Elizabeth, they joy that comes when we hear of God's plan to send the Messiah that had been hoped for.

### Set-Up

Before students arrive, prepare a center where students can work. Equip the area with building blocks, Tinker toys, a large sheet of butcher paper, various drawing supplies, patterns to trace, etc.

### Getting Started

Instruct the students that they are to work to design the greatest plan they can imagine. After they have had several minutes to work on their plan (they probably will not be able to complete it), write these questions on the whiteboard (or have them previously written out).

- *What is your group planning?*
- *What is its purpose?*
- *What difference will your plan make in how things are done?*

- *How will other people feel about what you're planning?*
- *Does your plan solve a problem or make something better?*

To further prepare students for the aim of today's lesson, discuss the subject of plans as they are arriving or during this activity. You can do this individually or as a whole group.

- *What kind of plans do you look forward to or get excited about?*
- *Do you parents or your schools plan things?*

## READ

**Materials:** copies of "Good News Doodles", writing utensils; Bibles

### **Study the Bible: Luke 1:23-56**

Have students read **Luke 1:23-56**.

Discuss with students what the world was like before the Messiah came. To help them identify with those times, have students volunteer to roleplay what it might have been like to be a ten-year-old Jewish child in those days. Help them imagine what the Jews were feeling. Ask students to spend some time themselves jotting down the feelings they might have had in the days before Christ came. What would their lives be like without Him? You may wish to use the following questions:

- *What kind of injustices were occurring in those days?*
- *How would you feel if those things happened to you?*

Guide students in thinking about the feeling of helplessness that accompanies oppression—living under political hardship. You might have them complete these statements:

- *I can't wait for the Messiah to come because...*
- *I wish He would come today because...*

In these pages God begins to reveal His plan to people who had been waiting for it so long.

- *What is God beginning to reveal?*
- *How is He revealing His plan?*
- *To whom is He making it known?*
- *What difference will this plan make to the people?*

These questions help students realize that God's plan was to send a deliverer to His people. Jewish people call this deliverer the Messiah. Ask volunteers to explain what Messiah means.

Explain that all through history the Jews had examples of God's faithfulness to His people. He always kept His promises to them. In spite of that, many times the Jewish people found it difficult to keep trusting God's promises.

## Activity

Hand out copies of "Good News Doodles." This activity will help the students to experience and compare the emotions that various characters had as they heard about the coming Messiah. The activity piece provides three boxes. In the first box, students should doodle the way Zacharias may have felt when he heard the message from the angel. In the second box, students should doodle Elizabeth's reaction when she read the note from Zacharias; and, finally, they should doodle in the third box the way Mary felt when she learned that she would be the mother of the Messiah.

Have students volunteer to share and explain their doodles.

- *What difference is there between Zacharias's reaction and that of Mary and Elisabeth?*
- *I wonder which reaction is more pleasing to God. Why?*
- *Did anything about God's plan trouble one of these people?*  
Zacharias doubted God's plan as told him by the angel. It's as if he didn't trust God.
- *I wonder if there are times we might be like Zacharias. When might that be?*

## UNCOVER

**Materials:** page 49 – Christmas Replacements; stopwatch

### Life: World's Answer

#### Christmas Replacements

Discuss with students that Christmas is obviously not just a "Christian" holiday anymore. Christmas is celebrated all over the world with many celebrations not including even a trace of the story of Jesus' birth.

Allow students to share evidence of this they see in their schools, friends, and day-to-day experiences.

Direct students to "Christmas Replacements" on page 49.

Enlist a volunteer to read aloud the introduction to the "Christmas Replacements" activity.

Challenge students to really think about what distracts Christians from the true meaning of Christmas. Share your biggest struggle in staying focused on Christ's birth.

Tell students they will have one minute to write as many "Christmas Replacements" as they can. Time the students as they write. Compare answers and see who came up with the most answers.

*OPTION:* Allow students to work in pairs to complete this portion of the activity.

Direct students to the second part of the activity. Allow time for them to quietly reflect on their own tendencies during the Christmas season to forget about the miracle of Christ's birth.

Encourage students to answer the questions honestly.

Allow volunteers to share their own personal distractions along with a solution to help keep Christ's birth in focus.

## EMBARK

### **So, What was God's great plan?**

Dismiss students with these final thoughts:

- ✓ We can anticipate God's plans more confidently because we trust Him.
- ✓ If we trust God's plan, it's easier to be excited about the plan.
- ✓ God's gift of Jesus means hope of eternal life for the world.

### **Challenge of the Week:**

My challenge to you this week is to reflect on your own tendencies during the Christmas season to forget about the miracle of Christ's birth. Spend time talking with your family about solutions to help keep Christ's birth the focus of your Christmas.

*Pray, asking God to keep the miracle of the Christmas story in the students' focus this holiday season. Ask God to protect their minds and hearts from the busy Christmas traditions the world embraces.*

## LEGACY KIDS MEMORY VERSE WORK

If time permits, work on the December 4/5 Memory Verse after you have finished the lesson.

*"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David and Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.'" Luke 2:10-14*

## FELLOWSHIP TIME

**Teachers** – These are **optional activities** you may do with your class. Supplies are not provided. Talk to your campus Legacy Kids Minister if you need help rounding up the supplies you need.

### **Human Christmas Tree**

Form teams of three to four students. Teams should choose one person to be their "Human Christmas Tree."

Distribute one set of tree decorations to each team.

Give the teams five minutes to decorate their human as a Christmas tree.

Compare the human trees at the end of the five minutes and award a prize for the best-looking tree.

*OPTION:* Have enough prizes for each team by including awards like "Best Teamwork," "Loudest Elves," and so forth.

## **Christmas Tree Turnover**

Instruct students to move their chairs into a circle. Remove one chair from the circle and instruct that student to stand in the center of the circle.

Assign a "Christmas Decoration" to each student (For example, tinsel, star, lights, angels, and so forth).

TIP: Choose the number of decoration groups according to your class size. There should be at least three students assigned to each "Christmas decoration" type.

The student in the middle should call out one group, and that group must get up and find a new seat.

When they get up, the student in the middle should try to "steal" a seat. If the student in the middle successfully steals a seat, she becomes a member of the decoration group from which she stole a seat. The new seat-less student will stand in the middle to call out a different group of decorators to scramble their seats.

If the student in the middle calls out "CHRISTMAS TREE TURNOVER!" then everyone in the group must get up and change seats.

## **Cookie Decorating Contest**

Distribute one or two large sugar cookies to each student.

Tell students they have fifteen minutes to decorate their cookie in the most creative way they can.

Enlist impartial judges to award prizes. (Prizes can be silly or competitive.)

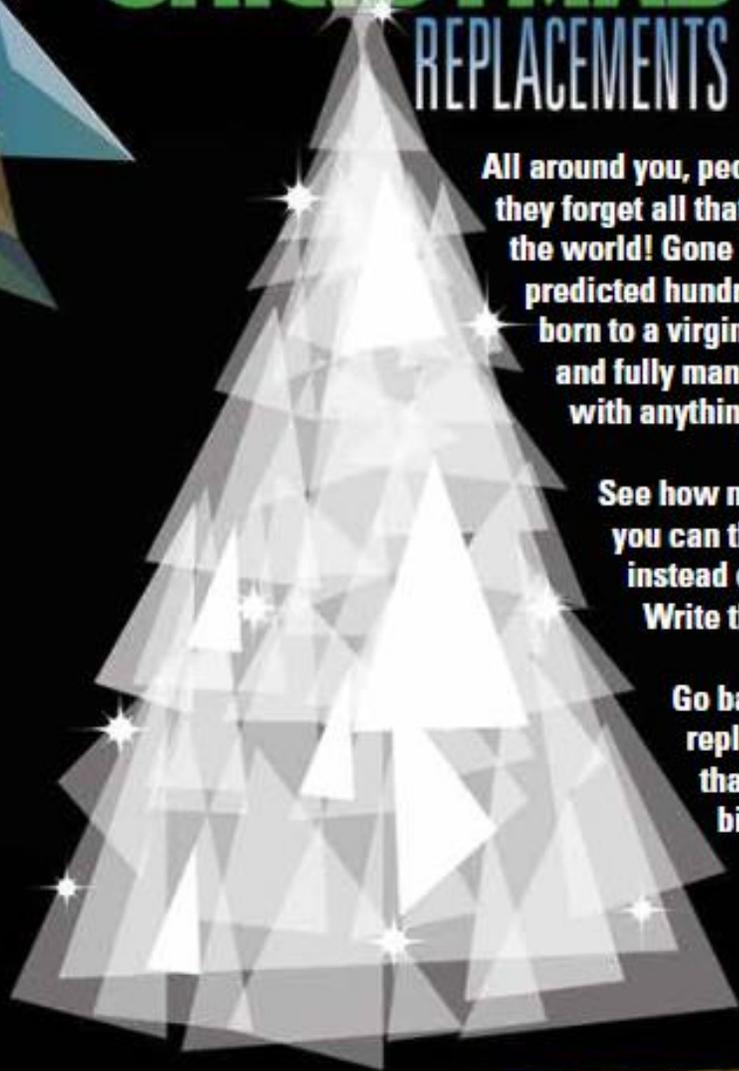
When the judging is complete, allow students to eat their cookies.

Challenge students to recall and discuss information learned this fall in Legacy Kids University.

Cue the DVD to the students' favorite videos from this fall, and allow them to watch while they finish their cookies.

Pray, thanking God for the Christmas season and all that was learned this fall.

# CHRISTMAS REPLACEMENTS



All around you, people hear about Jesus' birth and they forget all that His coming really means for the world! Gone is the miracle of His birth being predicted hundreds of years beforehand, being born to a virgin, and Jesus being both fully God and fully man. Instead, Christmas is replaced with anything but the miracle of Christ's birth.

See how many "Christmas Replacements" you can think of that our society focuses on instead of the true meaning of Christmas. Write them on the tree.

Go back and circle the three replacements of the Christmas season that you think take away from Jesus' birth the most.

Look at your list once more. Which of those replacements of the busy holiday season distract you the most from catching the true meaning of Christmas?

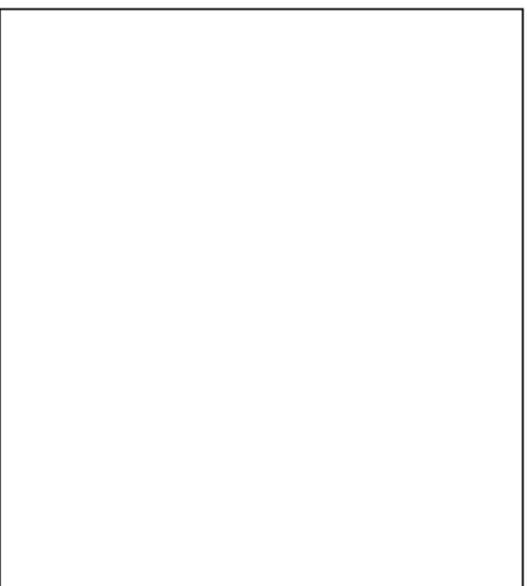
What are two things you could do this Christmas to keep in mind the true miracles of Jesus' birth?

**OVER  
AND OUT**

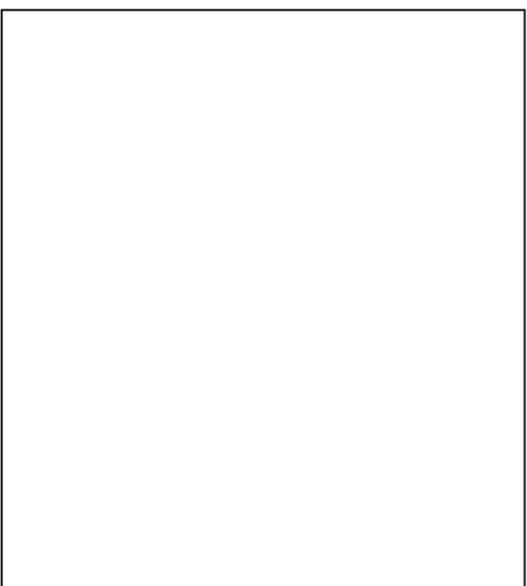
- Each Christmas, Christians should pray for a fresh view of Jesus' birth story.
- Jesus' birth was predicted accurately hundreds of years before it occurred!
- God's gift of Jesus means hope of eternal life for the world.

# Good News Doodles

Zacharias



Elizabeth



Mary

