



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

A FEW MOMENTS TO PREPARE.

USE THESE ICONS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THIS WEEK'S LESSON



TALK TOGETHER

Family conversations with God's Word.



MORE TO EXPLORE

Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.



THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



COLORING PAGE

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED THE SUNRISE?

Slowly but surely, the dark of night melts away into bright shades of blue. As the minutes pass, the sky picks up hues of brilliant, beautiful color. The light from the rising sun goes everywhere and touches everything, as far as you can see. It welcomes a brand-new day.

Each morning's sunrise is a gift from God to us. It surrounds us with beauty and reminds us God's mercies and faithfulness are new every morning.

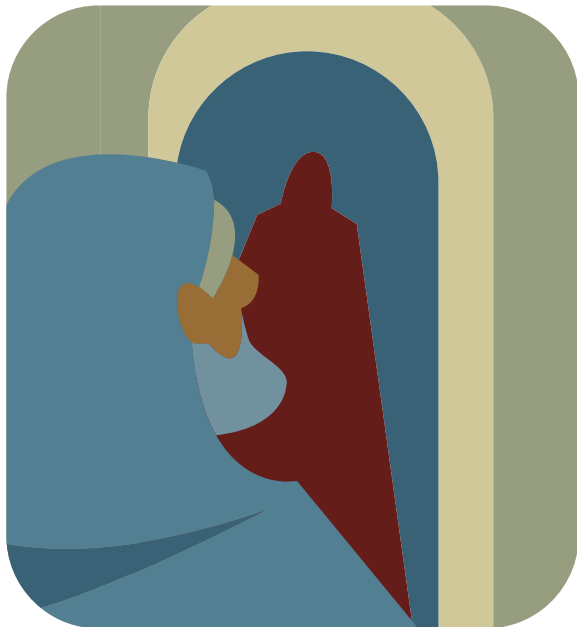
For many years, God's people walked in darkness. They were far from Him and didn't follow His ways. But God used the prophets to tell His people a Light was coming. This Light would be so

amazing that blind people would be able to see and prisoners would be set free. God's people, the Israelites, waited for this light for hundreds of years.



Then, after all that waiting, an angel appeared in the temple to a priest named Zechariah. He was very afraid, but the angel had good news for him. Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, had no children. The angel told him Elizabeth would have a baby boy and he was to be named John. John would grow up and prepare God's people for the Light of the World.

It was hard for Zechariah to believe this news because he and his wife were old. Because of his unbelief, the angel took away Zechariah's voice. He couldn't speak until the day John was born. When Zechariah's voice returned, he used his words to praise God. **Let's read what he said in Luke chapter 1, verses 76-79.**



AND YOU, CHILD, WILL BE CALLED THE PROPHET OF THE MOST HIGH; FOR YOU WILL GO BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS, TO GIVE KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION TO HIS PEOPLE IN THE FORGIVENESS OF THEIR SINS, BECAUSE OF THE TENDER MERCY OF OUR GOD, WHEREBY THE SUNRISE SHALL VISIT US FROM ON HIGH TO GIVE LIGHT TO THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH, TO GUIDE OUR FEET INTO THE WAY OF PEACE.

LUKE 1:76-79

Zechariah's son, John, would be a prophet of the Most High. John would tell others about the salvation, forgiveness and mercy of God. He would tell those in the darkness that a Light was coming, just like the sun brings light to our days. This Light was so bright it would illuminate the entire world, bringing salvation to the ends of the earth. **The Light of the World was coming.**

* MORE TO EXPLORE

GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION



EVERYTHING
GOD CREATED
WAS GOOD.

FALL



ADAM & EVE SINNED,
AND SIN PASSED TO
ALL PEOPLE, EVEN
YOU AND ME.

REDEMPTION



THOUGH ALL OF
US ARE SINNERS,
CHRIST DIED
FOR US.

RESTORATION



JESUS WILL
COME AGAIN.

FIND IT IN THE BIBLE:

LUKE

This week's story comes from the book of Luke. Luke is the third of four books known as the Gospels. The author of this book is a man named Luke, a physician. This book tells about Jesus's life, like the other Gospels, but was written to a gentile audience.

WHY DID SO MANY DIFFERENT
PROPHETS TALK ABOUT THE
LIGHT OF JESUS?

The Bible was written by many men over many hundreds of years. The Holy Spirit gave these men the ability and words to write down what God wanted to include in the Bible. It was God's idea to use the metaphor of light to describe Jesus' coming. The prophets were just being obedient to write down what God inspired them to say. When we see something over and over in God's Word, it's important we pay attention because He included it for a reason.

OT-NT CONNECTION

God broke His silence of over 400 years when Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and told him he would have a son who would be the Elijah prophesied in Malachi 4:1-6. **Find out more by reading Luke 1:1-25.**

- What happened to Zechariah when he questioned Gabriel's message? (Hint: Read verse 20.)
- What did you learn about the prophecies of God and His promise to send us Jesus?

JOURNAL

Use words to create a sunset! Think of several simple sentences that thank Jesus for being the Light of the World. For example: "I'm thankful Jesus came to Earth as a baby." Write that sentence to create the shape of a sun. Write another sentence to create a hillside. You can make your drawing as simple or complex as you wish!

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT
JESUS FULFILLED THE
MESSIANIC PROPHECIES?

Messianic prophecies begin in Genesis, are revealed throughout Old Testament Scripture and are all fulfilled in Jesus. These prophecies are important because they remind us God's Word is true, He always keeps His promises and Jesus is His Son. The fulfilled prophecies show us Jesus is the Savior we have always needed.

READ



Read the prophecy God gave Malachi in Malachi 4:1-6. Then, read God's words after 400 years of silence in Luke 1. Note the similarities between both passages concerning John the Baptist and Jesus.

★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

♥ MEMORIZE

**I WILL MAKE YOU
AS A LIGHT FOR
THE NATIONS, THAT
MY SALVATION MAY
REACH TO THE END
OF THE EARTH.**

ISAIAH 49:6B

**Q: HOW FAR WILL THE
LIGHT REACH?**

**A: TO THE END OF
THE EARTH.**

SHARE

Talk about a time God answered a prayer. Share how He answered and what you learned through the experience. How was Jesus the answer for you in the middle of your struggle?

WATCH



Watch this Memory Melody video with your kids to memorize this week's verse!

PRAY

**DEAR GOD, THANK YOU THAT
THE LIGHT OF JESUS
REACHES EVERY CORNER OF
THE WORLD, SHINING ON
EVERY NATION AND PEOPLE
GROUP. REMIND US OF YOUR
MERCY AND FAITHFULNESS
AS WE SEE THE SUN RISE
EVERY MORNING. THANK
YOU FOR SHOWING US YOUR
KINDNESS. AMEN.**

WATCH

Get up early, bundle everyone up and watch the sun rise over your neighborhood. Remind your kids that like the light of the morning sun, the light of Jesus reaches every corner of the world.

FIND

This week's story is in the book of Luke. Help your child find the book of Luke. Is this book in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters are there?

PAINT

Grab some watercolors and paint a sunrise over open green land. After it's dried, add magazine cutouts of people of different ethnicities. Remind your kids that Jesus' light reaches every people group on Earth.

LEARN

Learn about Christmas traditions from around the world! Pick one that interests your family and incorporate it into your celebration this year. Thank God that the light of Jesus is celebrated by people all over the world.



SCAN HERE TO LISTEN
WHEREVER YOU ARE!

SING

Listen to this playlist throughout this series to praise God for the Light of the World.

 **COLORING PAGE**

**I WILL MAKE YOU AS A
LIGHT FOR THE NATIONS,
THAT MY SALVATION
MAY REACH TO THE END
OF THE EARTH.
ISAIAH 49:6B**



NAME: _____