

# CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

MARCH 15, 2020

**In Sunday School Today:** John Was Born (Luke 1)

**Memory Verse:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. John 1:1-2

Dear Parents,

Some of the last words of the Lord recorded in the Old Testament are found in Malachi 4—"Look, I am going to send you the prophet Elijah ... he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers" (vv. 5-6). The Book of Malachi was written more than 400 years before Jesus was born. For centuries, God's people did not hear from Him. They were back in their homeland but were subject to other ruling nations. Eventually, the Romans took over.

The Roman emperor installed Herod as a leader over Judea and surrounding regions such as Samaria and Galilee. To gain the people's favor, King Herod replaced Zerubbabel's temple in Jerusalem with a beautiful marble temple constructed by 10,000 workers. This was the temple in which Zechariah, a priest from the family of Abijah, served the Lord. This was the temple in which God, through the angel Gabriel, broke His silence after so many years.

Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were both "righteous in God's sight" (Luke 1:6), living by faith in God's promise to send a Messiah. Like Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 18, they were getting along in years and did not have any children. Elizabeth's barrenness was a point of disgrace for her among the community (Luke 1:25) and God graciously answered this couple's prayers.

An angel appeared to Zechariah in the temple sanctuary and delivered good news: "Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son." Echoing Malachi's prophecy, the angel declared this son would "turn the hearts of fathers to their children" (Luke 1:17)

For his doubting, Zechariah was rendered mute until the promise came to pass. **When Zechariah believed God's word, he praised God. John was born to prepare the way for Jesus. John would point people to Jesus, and they would praise God for keeping His promise to send the Savior.**

## Family Discussion Questions:

- What ways can you help prepare people to meet Jesus?
- How can we learn to trust God right away?

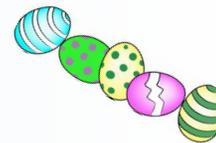
## EVENTS | MEETINGS | SAVE THE DATES

**Small Group:** We are looking to start another "couples" small group here at COGS. We have a few people interested in joining; it would be great to start another one here with people who are going through the same stages of life together! If you are looking to join a small group, please sign up on the CFM table. If you feel called to lead one, please note that on the sign up as well. You don't have to be a Bible scholar to do so—you just have to pray and have it on your heart to do so.



**Easter Festival Donations: In order to fill all of the goodie bags, we need your help!** As you are at the store these next few weeks, please consider purchasing some of the following items.

- Candy (**all individually wrapped**)
- Fruit snacks/roll ups
- Pretzel bags (snack sized bags)
- Cracker bags (snack sized bags)
- Cookie bags (snack sized bags)
- Food items to include in allergy-free bags (no nuts, red dyes, gluten, milk or eggs) (please mark them)
- Tootsie Pops, Tootsie Rolls, Dubble Bubble, Junior Mints, DOTS (Free of peanuts, tree nuts and gluten-free.)
- We already have all of the coloring books, erasers, stickers and non-edible items. We are now looking for the yummy edible things! **There will be a box labeled in the gathering area for your donations to deliver before 11am on Sunday, April 7th. Box will be out beginning on Sunday, March 15th!**



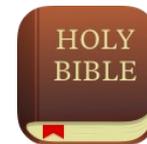
**March 29th—Family Worship.** There will be no Sunday School so our children can worship and experience the church service with their families. The children will also come up and perform, "Every Move I Make." We look forward to these 5th Sundays!

## Big Picture Question:

- Is Jesus God or human?  
Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

## EVENTS | MEETINGS | SAVE THE DATES cont.,

**COGS CFM 2020 Devotions:** If you are interested in participating in devotions alongside of many others here at COGS, please download the Bible app and find these plans:



**3/1– 4/7:** The Habit of Happiness  
**4/8-4/14:** On Calvary's Hill

## Easter Festival (SAVE THE DATE):

**Eggstra Special Egg Hunt:** Sat. 4/4 11-1pm  
**COGS Family Egg Hunt:** Sat. 4/4 1:30-3:30pm  
Egg Hunt will begin at 2pm

**\*See main announcements for needs for candy/food donations. Donations are being collected now until 3/29.**



## VBS 2020 (SAVE THE DATE):

**Sun. June 28th—Tues. June 30th**

\*If you'd like to be a part of the VBS Team, we will be meeting on

**April 19th at 11am (Lounge)**

Our VBS theme will be **Summer Games** where we will learn about the life of Daniel. Daniel shows us that the ultimate goal of our lives should be to live a life that honors God. Registration will be out soon for our VBS...keep an eye out!

## GRETNA GLEN DAY CAMP WEEK

July 20-24th

"Wet & Wacky"



COGS will contribute \$50 towards any member/regular attendee Day Camp fee and \$100 towards any Overnight Camp.

## Memory Verse:

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