

# God is Lord and King

## 3 Weeks

### **Outcomes**

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God is in charge of the whole world
- Christmas is a special time when we remember when God sent Jesus into the world as part of his big plan for the world
- Baby Jesus was God's son. This means that although he was a human baby, he was also God.

### **Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:**

The world map – countries and continents

### **Link between "God is Lord and King" and classroom topic:**

Discuss with children that God is in control of the whole universe. That is, our world, the sun and the stars. He tells the sun the time to set. He makes the tides because the moon is under His control (Ps 104:19). Because God is looking after our world, He looks after the people that He made. He sent His son Jesus into the world so that every person in the whole world could have the opportunity of knowing the true God.

# God is Lord and King

## Week 1

### Waiting for a Saviour

**Bible reference:** Luke 1

The people of Israel had read the Scriptures. They had read the words of the prophet Isaiah that a Saviour would come. They thought that this Saviour was coming to set them free from the rule of Rome. The people were not happy being ruled by the king of Rome.

And so the people waited and longed for the great day to come. Every mother of Israel hoped that she might be the one to receive this wonderful child as her baby. Finally, about 2000 years after the promise given to Abraham, it was time for God to make this happen.

Find where Abraham is on your timeline.  
Find where Jesus is on your timeline.

#### **An angel visits Zechariah**

In the time of King Herod, an old man called Zechariah was a minister in God's House. His wife's name was Elizabeth. Zechariah and Elisabeth loved God and always tried to do what was right. These two people were sometimes lonely, for they had no children. They had asked God many times for a baby, and now they were too old to have children.

Sometimes Zechariah stayed in God's House for many days. One day when he was working in one of the smaller rooms in God's house an angel came to him. Zechariah was afraid.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah, for God has heard your prayers. Your wife, Elisabeth, is going to have a son. Soon God will send you a baby boy, and you must call his name John. He shall be great in the sight of God and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. When he grows up he will turn many people to the Lord. Soon God is going to send His own Son into the world as a Saviour. Your son will tell people that the Saviour is coming."

It was hard for Zechariah to believe what the angel told him. "How shall I know that this is true?" he asked. "I am an old man and my wife is old too. People don't have babies when they are old. Give me a sign so that I know that this is true."

The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I live with God. He sent me to you to tell you this happy news. I shall give you a sign. Because you did not believe me, you will not be able to speak until the baby is born."

There were people in the main part of God's House. They had been waiting for Zechariah to come out to them. Finally when he did come out, he could not talk. He made hand signs to them and tried to tell them what had happened. Soon the people understood that he had seen an angel.

When Zechariah's work in God's house had finished he went home to Elisabeth. He could not tell Elisabeth what had happened, so he wrote it down for her to read. Zechariah and Elisabeth were full of joy while they waited for their new baby to come.

### **Discussion**

Who was Zechariah?

Why were Zechariah and Elisabeth lonely?

What message did the angel give to Zechariah?

Why couldn't Zechariah talk?

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## Week 2 An angel visits Mary

### **Bible reference: Luke 1**

In the little town of Nazareth lived a lovely young lady named Mary. Mary was going to be married to a carpenter named Joseph. God knew that Mary loved and served Him. He chose her for a very special task. He sent his angel Gabriel to speak to her. "Good day, you highly favored one," Gabriel says to her. "God is with you." Mary was afraid because she had never seen an angel before.

"Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel said. "God is very pleased with you. That is why he is going to do a wonderful thing for you. You will soon have a baby. And you are to call him Jesus. This child will be great, and he will be called Son of the Most High God. God will make him king, as David was. But Jesus will be a king forever, and his kingdom will never end!"

"How can this all be?" Mary asked. "I am not even married, so how can I have a baby?"

"God's power will come upon you," Gabriel answered. "So the child will be called God's Son." Then he said, "Remember your relative Elizabeth. People said that she was too old to have children. But soon now she will have a son. So you see, there is nothing that God can't do."

Straight away Mary replied, "I am a servant of the Lord. May it happen to me just as you have said." The angel then left.

Not long after this Mary went to visit her cousin Elisabeth. When Elisabeth opened the door for Mary, God told her Mary's secret.

"You are blessed Mary, and the baby you are going to have is blessed," she said. Mary was filled with joy. She stayed with Elisabeth for three months and then returned home and to find Joseph. She shared her wonderful secret with him. It was hard for him to believe Mary's words. He thought that perhaps he should not take Mary as his wife after all.

Then one night he had a dream. An angel came to him and said, "Joseph. Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. Her baby is going to be the Son of God. You must call His name Jesus because He is going to save people from their sins."

Then Joseph was happy too. He remembered the angel's words. He married Mary and together they waited for this wonderful child.

### **Discussion:**

What good news did the angel Gabriel bring to Mary?

How did Elisabeth know that Mary was going to have a baby?

What event made Joseph believe that this was true?

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## Week 3

### The Saviour is born

**Bible reference: Luke 2**

Mary and Joseph were still waiting for the baby that the angel had promised them. One day, a Roman king, Caesar Augustus, sent out a message. He told the people about a new law which the king had made. Everyone was to go to the city where their parents and grandparents had been born, for an official count of the people in the country.

Even though Mary and Joseph were expecting the baby to come soon, they had to leave Nazareth and go to Bethlehem. It took many days to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Day after day Mary sat on the little donkey while Joseph walked beside her. When they finally arrived in Bethlehem it was too late to find a place to sleep. The city was crowded and there was no room for them anywhere. The only place they could find to sleep was a stable at the back of an inn. (A stable is where the animals are kept and an inn is a place where travelers can stay.) The innkeeper said that they could sleep there. So Joseph made a bed for Mary on a pile of straw in the stable.

That night God sent Mary her baby. She wrapped him in some soft rags that she had brought with her. There was no special bed for the baby. Mary laid her baby in the manger. (A manger is an animal feeding box.)

That same night there were shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem. They were taking care of their sheep. Suddenly they saw a great light. It was so bright that they could not see anything for a moment. They covered their eyes. There was an angel standing before them and God's glory shone all around them. The shepherds trembled with fear.

But the angel said, "Don't be afraid. I am bringing you good news. This good news is for all the people. Today, in this city, a Saviour has been born. He is Christ the Lord. You will find the baby wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger."

Suddenly there were many angels above them. They all began to sing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth let there be peace." Then all the angels went back to heaven.

The shepherds looked at each other in amazement. "Come," they said, "let us go at once to Bethlehem." They left their sheep on the hillside and hurried to Bethlehem. They went to the stable behind the inn.

"Is there a new baby here?" they asked. Joseph opened the stable door and the shepherds explained the message of the angel, that this new born baby would be their Saviour and Lord."

The shepherds knelt down beside the manger and watched the baby with joy in their hearts. The Saviour had finally come! God had kept His promise!

The shepherds went back to their sheep, and when morning came they hurried to the town to tell everyone that the Saviour has been born.

**Discussion**

Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem?

Where did they sleep in Bethlehem?

Why was that the most important night in history?

Who were the first visitors to come and see Baby Jesus?