



Angel Sightings – A 3-Week Series

Lesson 1: ADVANCE WARNING

The it



The **it** of the lesson is that ONE THING you say over and over so they understand it. If their parents ask, “What did you learn at church?”, you want them to answer with the **it** of your lesson. If YOU ask the kids, “What am I trying to get you to learn/understand?” and they answer with this phrase, you can say, “That’s **it**!”

THE **it** THIS WEEK IS: **God’s Plan is the Best Plan**



Story: An Angel Appears to Zechariah

Scripture: Luke 1:5–25

Summary: An angel appears to the priest Zechariah and tells him that his wife, Elizabeth, will have a baby boy, even though she is long past childbearing age, and that they are to name the baby John. The angel also explains that the baby has been sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah. The baby grows up to become John the Baptist.

Things you might need for this lesson:

FIND/GATHER/BUY:

- ☐ Costume for Whyit (all 4 weeks)
- ☐ Rock on string for Intro it
- ☐ Plungers, elastic, and soft rings for Play it
- ☐ Popsicle sticks for Tell it
- ☐ Christmas boxes and gifts for Teach it
- ☐ Candy, blindfold, spool, and sign for Teach it
- ☐ Weather radio for Show it
- ☐ Rocks, string, and paint for Make it
- ☐ Hula hoops for Hide it

FROM DOWNLOADS:

- ☐ Popsicle sticks figures for Tell it
- ☐ Story script for Tell it
- ☐ Weather Rock instructions for Make it
- ☐ IMAGES and VIDEOS for projection



Whyit (Pronounced Wyatt)

In this series, Whyit is a self-proclaimed Weather Expert! He could dress like a weatherman, perhaps even wear a suit and tie, or you could go total nerd with a pocket protector filled with pens or a tool belt filled with odd equipment. You decide! Each week he will have a new weather predicting tool that he has invented or is otherwise using to predict the weather.



Whyit Invents the Weather Rock!

NEEDED: Rock on a string

This week Whyit is excited to show the kids his new invention, the Weather Rock! He shows his invention and then explains the “genius” of the weather rock! You hang the rock from a string in your back yard and by studying it you can tell what the weather is. He then goes on to explain the different conditions of the Rock and what weather it indicates. Be sure to explain it as though this is very sophisticated technical jargon!

Condition of Rock	Weather Condition
Rock is Warm	Sunny Conditions
Rock is Cool	Cold Weather Front
Rock is Wet	Rainy Weather
Rock is Dry	Not Raining
Rock is White on Top	Snowy Weather
Rock is Swinging	Windy Conditions
Can't See Rock	Foggy Conditions
Rock is Under Water	Flood
Rock is Jumping Up and Down	Earthquake
Rock is Gone	Tornado

Watch for combinations of conditions, such as Stone is both Dry and Swinging could indicate a windy day with no rain.

PLAY *it* A Game that demonstrates *it*



Halo Toss

NEEDED: You'll need a small handheld plunger for each team (minimum of two teams but three or four is better). Next, you'll need some soft string or elastic to hold the plungers onto the kids' heads. You'll also need rings to serve as 'halos.' Since kids will be tossing toward kids' heads, be sure the rings are soft in case they hit the face. They should be cloth or inflatable. You can find many very affordable rings online for sale.



PLAYING: For each team, one will be the "angel" who wears the plunger on their head and their teammates try to toss the rings or "haloes" (as you will call them) onto the handle of the plunger. You can play a couple different ways: teams of two can stand about 5 feet apart and take turns tossing at each other, or a 5-foot circle of kids can all toss at the angel standing in the center. Do whatever fits your space the best.

THE POINT: While halos are often used in pictures of angels, it's interesting that halos aren't in the Bible anywhere. They started being used in art around the fourth century to show that someone was holy, or innocent, or heavenly. They were not only drawn over angels, but even over godly people. Early paintings of Mary and Joseph often had halos over them. It was just something that artists did to show that someone was special.

WATCH *it* A video that sets *it* up



For this series, a team from the M.A.G.I. (Meteorological Angelic Global Investigations) are meeting by video. For this series there are TWO videos. PART ONE is an intro video played toward the beginning of the service. It introduces the Bibles Stories as our intrepid investigators have heard about a reported angel sighting and set out to investigate it. PART TWO can be played after the TELL IT segment, or if you'd like, as the Bible Story segment, as it reviews the Bible Story for this lesson.

PREPARATION: The videos are included in your lesson downloads. A screen shot is also included in your downloads to display on screen before playing the videos.



SUMMARY: In this week's videos, our M.A.G.I. investigators have heard reports of an angel being spotted at the Temple in Jerusalem. They send someone to learn more. In Part 2, they report back on what they've learned.



STORY: An Angel Appears to Zechariah

Scripture: Luke 1:5–25

SUMMARY: An angel appears to the priest Zechariah and tells him that his wife, Elizabeth, will have a baby boy, even though she is long past childbearing age, and that they are to name the baby John. The angel also explains that the baby has been sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah. The baby grows up to become John the Baptist.



POPSICLE STICK FIGURE BIBLE STORY: For this series, we provide Bible story character graphics that you can print (cardstock paper recommended) and then cut out and attach to large popsicle sticks. Invite some children to come up front and “act” out the story with the characters as you tell the Bible story.

NEEDED: Large popsicle sticks

PREPARATION: Prepare the Bible Character Popsicle Sticks. For this story you will need: Angel, Zechariah, and People at the Temple. Print and cut out the figures and glue them each to a large popsicle stick for the kids to hold.

PRESENTATION: Download the story of “An Angel Visits Zechariah” and read it as the kids act out the story with the popsicle stick characters.

Optional: Set up a camera and film the presentation to enjoy again, post online, or pre-record if you’d like.



Advance Warning

This was not just a random event that just happened to take place, this was an event that all of history up to this point had been leading up to! From the very first chapters of the Bible where God told Adam and Eve that a Savior would be coming, to many of the Old Testament stories and prophecies throughout the Old Testament, the Promise of a Savior was something that God’s People had been looking forward to for many, many years! God said it would happen and finally it did! That’s why God sent angels to announce that this heavenly event was finally going to happen!



ACTIVITY: Christmas Present Prediction Trick!

NEEDED: FIVE Christmas boxes and small gifts

PREPARATION: Prepare your Christmas Boxes. If you have only one service (and don't need to repeat this more than once) then you can gift wrap five boxes after preparing them. If, however, you have multiple services, instead of making complete separate sets for each service, you can gift wrap five boxes but gift wrap boxes that have a removeable lid, wrapping the lid separately so that no paper is ripped, and the lid can be replaced, and the object lesson done again the next service. It's recommended you purchase decorated gift boxes with removeable lids that you can save and reuse many times while eliminating the wrapping and unwrapping altogether. The rest of the preparation is described in the presentation. You'll need a nice present to put in each box that the volunteer will get to keep. There should be a different gift in each box, such as a toy, video, or large candy treat.



PRESENTATION: Five Christmas presents are displayed. A volunteer is invited up on the stage and told they can choose **ANY ONE** of the boxes and they get to keep what is inside the box. Explain that you have made a prediction on which box they will choose and that you will prove after they have chosen that you knew **IN ADVANCE** which box they would choose, so to choose carefully, and to please choose the one you predicted. The child makes their choice and then the selection is proven.

THE SECRET: It doesn't matter which one is chosen, because the method of "proof" changes for each selection! But, of course, the audience doesn't realize this, as they only know the reveal that you present! The reveal is done with such fanfare and confidence that they believe that is what you would have done no matter which box had been selected!

Box 1: Show the bottom of the box where it says, "You will choose this box." They will look at the bottom of the other boxes, where it does NOT say that!

Box 2: Show the inside of the lid where it says, "You will choose this box." Of course, they want to see the lids of the other boxes, which clearly do NOT have the same message!

Box 3: Point to the Name Tag on the box and reveal that it is a small envelope! Open the envelope to reveal a piece of paper that says, "You will choose this box." Open each of the other boxes to show the same papers, but they say, "You will NOT choose this box!"

Box 4: Have the child look down into the box where it says on the bottom of the box "You will choose this box!" One by one, show the other boxes (being careful not to show the inside of the lid or the bottom of the box!) where they just say Merry Christmas!

Box 5: CHOOSE YOUR OWN REVEAL METHOD! You can have a note on your back under your jacket! You can have it written on a white board covered with a cloth off to

the side. Or on a paper under your hat. You can have a wrapped present that is clearly on stage and unnoticed up to this point with your prediction inside. I try to make it something really dramatic and hope it's the one selected. The more fun it is the better. It has to be something that is believable yet overlooked if you end up not needing it because they chose one, two, three, or four.

OR, you can choose to just use the four boxes.

This plays HUGE! It's all in how you present it – with the greatest of confidence and boldness! Obviously, it can only be done once, so if you have kids in a repeated service, you'll have to say something like, "I changed it up from first service and made a NEW prediction" so they don't figure out your ruse.

THE POINT: I made a prediction about what box would be picked! One box out of five! Who thinks I got lucky? (Let the kids respond.) Who thinks there might have been a trick to it? (Let the kids respond.) Well, you'll never know. There might be a way I could use a trick to predict the choice of ONE box, but when Jesus came to earth, he fulfilled more than just one prediction – the Bible calls them prophecies. A prediction is a "guess," kind of like what a weatherman makes – it's a good guess, a forecast, but no one expects it to be perfect. Usually, it's just kind of close. But prophecies are exact and made WAY in advance. It would be like the weatherman predicting the weather for (SAY TODAY'S DATE BUT CHANGE THE YEAR SEVERAL YEARS INTO THE FUTURE.) That would be a prophecy, not a prediction. And if it came true, I'd be a prophet, not a weatherman!

And to make it even more amazing, a prophecy is often something AMAZING. If I said, "I predict it will be hot next summer in Arizona!" or "I predict it will snow the week of Christmas in Chicago," you won't be that impressed if it happens, because those are both pretty likely to come true. But if I said, "It's going to snow in Arizona in the summer, or be a heat wave in Chicago in December," and that came true? Suddenly, I'm a prophet! Why? Because that just doesn't happen.

That's why Zechariah didn't believe the angel when he said that his wife was going to have a baby. She was an old lady, and you don't see many old ladies having babies. (He must have forgotten about Abraham's wife in the Old Testament. This wouldn't be the first time God did this!)

God likes to do the impossible, doesn't He? He calls those impossible things miracles. And He likes to tell us about them ahead of time so that when they happen, we know that **HE DID THEM!**

THE BIG QUESTION: Why did God go through all the bother of predicting – prophesying – the coming of Jesus? It's only the BIGGEST EVENT in Human History, and it became the biggest holiday on the planet: CHRISTMAS. But why? It's so big, the world celebrates, decorates, plays music and movies, and everyone gives and gets gifts – but why?

It's all part of GOD'S GRAND PLAN!

Quick Review:

- Part One: God Created the World – Adam and Eve sinned, and sin entered the world. Everyone after that needed a Savior.
- Part Two: God called Abraham, and his people, the Israelites, became God’s People. God promised a Savior would come through their descendants.
- Part Three: Through the years, many prophets continued to call people to turn to God while promising that the Savior (the Messiah – the Promised One) would be coming.

And now it was time for PART FOUR: The arrival of the Savior, Jesus! And here is where it gets SUPER EXCITING! You are a part of God’s Plan! He has a role for YOU to play in His Master Plan!

READ: Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Just as God had a plan for Zechariah and his wife – and we’ll see next week His plan for Mary and Joseph – He has a plan for YOU, too! And the Bible says it’s a GOOD plan!

READ: Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

TRUST ACTIVITY: Do you trust me?

NEEDED: You need a yummy candy that you know ANY kid will like and no one is allergic to, such as gummy bears. Purchase a bag so that after using one, you can give the rest of the candy as a prize to the participant. You’ll need a blindfold and a plastic spoon as well. Make a sign that says, “Make noises like what I’m holding is gross or yucky.”

PRESENTATION: Invite a child who trusts you to come up front. Let them know that you will be testing that trust. Ask them if they trust you? They should say yes or pick another child. (It is OK if a child changes their mind; do not pressure them.) Put a blindfold on the child and ask them again, “Do you trust me?” If they affirm that they do, explain that you are going to have them taste something. Tell them that it is not gross or bad, and you are sure they will like it. As you get it out (using the spoon for sanitation) show the audience the sign that says, “Make noises like what I’m holding is gross or yucky.” This will cause the kids in the audience to make noises that will cause doubt in the child volunteer. The volunteer may get hesitant. Ask them again if they trust you. When they try the candy, they will end up liking it, and then you can have them take off the blindfold to see what it was. Give them the bag as a prize for their bravery and trust. Show them the sign to explain what they heard from the audience.

THE POINT: You can ask if the audience noise caused them to doubt. Likely, it did. But perhaps not. Either way is fine. The point is that they chose to trust you, and not their own understanding (what they heard) and in the end they were rewarded. It is the same with God. Sometimes what we hear or see or experience can make it hard to trust God. But if we don’t lean on our own understanding, but trust God and His plan, we will be rewarded, just as Zechariah was.

SHOW *it* An object lesson or activity that illustrates it



ACTIVITY: Weather Radio

NEEDED: Ideally, you want a Weather Radio. If you do not want to purchase one, you can find one online to play or there are free apps that will play NOAA Weather Radio for free, but a physical radio will be the most effective visually for the kids.



PRESENTATION: Show or play the weather radio. Demonstrate the NOAA Weather broadcast and ask kids if they know what it is.

Explain to kids that it's a specially made radio that usually tunes into one channel, the NOAA Weather Radio channel. NOAA stands for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting weather, all the time, from the NOAA office closest to you. It also has emergency information for all types of emergencies like earthquakes, chemical spills, and public safety.

Weather radios like this one help us plan to be safe during times of emergencies. Planning ahead is important. Having advanced warning when bad weather is coming can save our lives.

God also knew it was going to be important to give people some advanced warning for when Jesus was coming. He had a plan to send a prophet ahead to prepare people for Jesus. That prophet was a man named John. John's miracle birth to parents in their old age was announced by an angel.

A weather radio gives the present weather and a forecast a few days into the future, but that's about as far as it can go. But God knows the future – way into the future – and that's why we can trust Him with our life.

MAKE *it* A craft for the kids to make and take home to remember the lesson.



Unique to this series, we are offering a Make It segment to provide a fun weather-related craft to go along with each lesson.

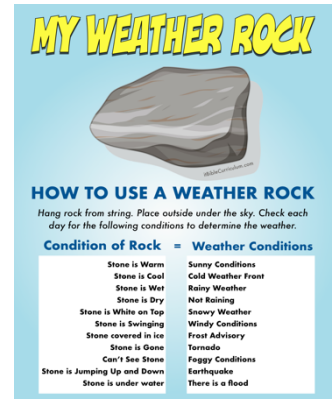
ACTIVITY: Weather Rock

NEEDED: You'll need some small, smooth rocks and some string so the kids can find a place to hang them. Paint or some other medium is recommended so the kids can decorate them. You'll also need to print the Weather Rock Instructions from your downloads, one for each child.



PREPARATION: If you have time, or a separate program during which you can do the Make It, you can provide paint so kids can decorate their rocks. Acrylic paint is the best type to use as it's easy to apply, thick enough to coat the entire rock, and you can add as many layers as needed. It's also most affordable, and it dries quickly. However, you can also use markers, paint pens, sharpies, or even craft and poster paint. Just experiment with the rocks you plan to use as different rocks will accept paints differently.

PRESENTATION: At the beginning of the lesson, Whyit explained how he invented the Weather Rock. Now your kids have a chance to make one to take home! Have each child decorate their rocks with the paint or other medium provided. Then they can attach a string to their 'Weather Rock' so they can hang it up somewhere outside.



Don't forget to send home the Weather Rock Instructions with all the kids!

FIND it Bible verses that help unpack it



Have the children get their Bibles out and race to find these verses.

Encourage all the kids to look up the verses. After a student reads it aloud, put it up on the screen and read it together. Briefly discuss and explain the passage as it relates to the lesson.

Isaiah 55:8-9 *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*



Psalms 147:5 *Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.*

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 *However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" – the things God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.*



This is the THEME PASSAGE

Challenge the kids to memorize this passage during this series. You may want to have a fun prize or treat for those who memorize it!

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:10-11



ACTIVITY: Giant Halo Pass

NEEDED: Hula Hoops

PREPARATION: You'll need two Hula Hoops and the verse up on the screen. Choose two teams of 6-8; boys vs. girls is ideal, but create teams that work best for your ministry.

PLAYING: Each team lines up so players are arm's length apart. Both teams should be facing the screen. The first player holds the hula hoop and passes it over their body and hands it to the next person while saying THREE words of the verse, "But the angel," and then the next person passes the hoop over their head saying the next three words, "...said to them..." and so on. When the hula hoop gets to the end of the row, start passing it back the other direction. Keep reciting 3 words per player. The second-to-last person can finish the verse with "...the Messiah the LORD." The last person then gives the reference. The first team to complete the verse wins!

Repeat this game multiple times with different team members to help with memorization.



Start each day with a simple prayer. "God, I trust you for what you have for me today. No matter what happens, I know you are with me, and I'll do my best to follow you."



TAKE *it* Take home tool to help parents review *it* with the kids.



PREPARATION: Included in your download. Use as paper and/or digital tool.

The TAKE IT tool can be printed and given to the kids, or provided digitally, either in an email to parents or posted to your church's website or social media.

INCLUDED FOR PARENTS:

- The *it* for the lesson
- **FIND IT** verses they can look up
- **HIDE IT** theme verse in full to review
- **LIVE IT** application from the lesson
- **DISCUSS IT** questions parents can use to discuss the lesson with their children



LOOKING AHEAD

Here is next week's lesson topic:

Lesson 2: An Eternal Forecast
You Are a Part of God's BIG Plan!

BONUS IDEAS!



it is always growing and adding NEW IDEAS!

Be sure you are a member of the Kidology.org Facebook Group so you don't miss out on BONUS IDEAS or COACHING VIDEOS that Pastor Karl or Doug often post to help make your Sunday Experience the best it can be! If they get new ideas, they will share them! AND if YOU come up with a great idea for this lesson, you can share it too!

VISIT OR JOIN AT: [Facebook.com/groups/kidologyorg](https://www.facebook.com/groups/kidologyorg)