

— Stories from God's Word Series —

Bible TREASURES

NEW TESTAMENT

Edited by Amber Bennett



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Compiled and edited by Amber Bennett
Copyediting by Diane C. Olson
Layout by Bob Fine and Edward J. Shewan
Cover design by Bob Fine
Cover illustration by David Bergquist
Text illustrations by Keith R. Neely
Activity illustrations by David Bergquist and Drew Roland

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Introduction

Bible Treasures: New Testament is a children's Bible storybook written specifically for second graders, though children of many ages will enjoy the familiar stories and accompanying pictures. As the title implies, this book focuses on stories found within the books of Matthew through Revelation. Characters such as Jesus Christ, Peter, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Timothy, and others are brought to life within these pages.

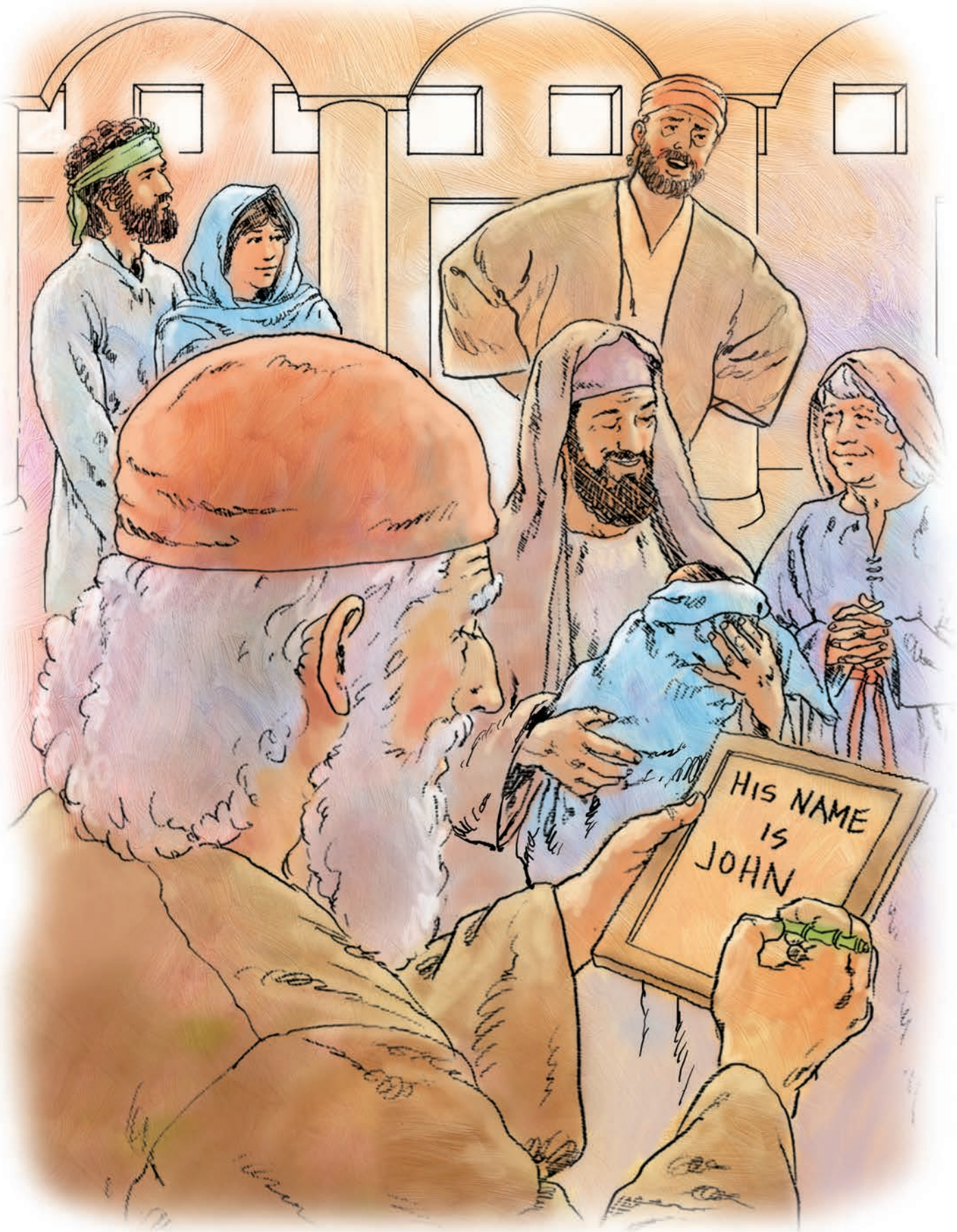
Bible Treasures is based on a thirty-six week school year. Each week consists of four Bible lessons and one review lesson. While this may seem like a lot of stories for young students, this format is intended to provide the children with a comprehensive, chronological overview of the Bible books of the New Testament. The stories naturally follow one another and are short enough that they can easily be reread as often as your child desires and your time allows.

Each weekly lesson also includes questions about the Bible story, one thought question, a weekly Bible memory verse, and a question from *First Catechism* (copyright © 2003, Great Commission Publications). The story questions are easily answered in a few words. The thought questions are meant to promote thought and discussion between you and your child and may be done orally. The memory verses and catechism questions are meant to be memorized by your child in order to help hide God's Word and truth in his or her heart. Teachers and parents are encouraged to review the weekly Bible verse and appropriate catechism question each day to help their child memorize them more quickly.

A review lesson is provided at the end of each week. This lesson reviews the weekly Bible verse and catechism questions from the week. This review will also, as the weeks pass by, begin including catechism questions from previous lessons and from *Bible Treasures: Genesis through Ruth* and *Bible Treasures: 1 Samuel through Malachi*. An activity, meant to help students review some of the week's Bible lessons, is also provided in the review lesson at the end of each week.

An answer key is provided at the end of this book. The answers correspond to the questions listed at the end of each Bible story, the weekly review questions, and activity questions, if applicable. No answers are provided for the thought questions, as they are meant merely to help guide discussion.

Amber Bennett



Unit 1

The Birth of John

LESSON 1

The New Testament

Isaiah 9:6

If you will open your Bible a little way past the middle, you will find the end of the Old Testament. This is the end of the first part of the Bible, in which we learned about God, His creation, and the men and women He chose. In the Old Testament, we learned about Abraham and his family; we also learned about the judges, the kings, and the prophets.

Next find the last page of the end of the first part of the Bible; on the very next page, you will find the words, “The New Testament.” This is the start of the second part of the Bible, in which we will learn about Jesus Christ, God’s Son; He is the Savior of God’s chosen people.

Between the Old and New Testaments there was a long time when nothing was added to the Bible; 400 years passed before the New Testament began. The Bible does not tell us what happened during those 400 years, but we can find out some things by reading history books about that time.

During those 400 years, the Jewish people were living in the land of Palestine, waiting. The people had been waiting since the time of the prophet Isaiah, 700 years earlier. They had been waiting since the time of their forefather Abraham, who had lived 1,900 years before.

All this time, the Jewish people were waiting and longing for a child, whom God had promised to send to save His

people. God first gave this promise to Eve in the garden of Eden when He said that one day one of her offspring would crush Satan’s head because Satan had brought sin and death into the world by tempting Eve to disobey God. This promised child would bring everlasting life to God’s people.

Many years later, God promised Abraham that this child would be one of his many descendants and that all the nations of the world would be blessed by Him. Ever since then, the Jewish people had been watching for His coming.

Then the great prophet Isaiah prophesied the child’s coming when he said, “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

The prophet Micah then prophesied that the child would be born in the town of Bethlehem. God also made many other promises about the child He would send. This child would be Jesus, God’s own Son sent to earth as a baby to save God’s people from their sins. The New Testament tells the story of Jesus and all the things He taught God’s people.

The story begins after 400 years of silence, when the time for God’s promised Son had finally arrived.

Questions

1. What is the second part of the Bible called? _____
2. God first promised the coming of a child who would save His people in the _____ of _____.
3. How many years passed between the end of the Old and the beginning of the New Testament? _____
4. What was the promised child’s name? _____

Thought Question

Why might God have made His people wait so long for the promised Savior? Why didn’t God send Jesus right away?

Catechism

Question 109: What is prayer?

Answer 109: Prayer is praising God, giving thanks for all his blessings, and asking him for the things he has promised in the Bible.

Memory Verse

Matthew 6:9

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

LESSON 2

The Priest Who Could Not Speak

Luke 1:5-25

In the land of Israel, a good old priest named Zacharias lived. His wife was named Elizabeth. Zacharias and Elizabeth were both godly people, worshiping God as He commanded. This priest and his wife had one great sorrow: they had no children. They were both now so old that they no longer expected they would ever have children.

However, Zacharias still had work to do as a priest. When all the people came to the temple to pray, it was sometimes Zacharias' job to go into the temple and burn the sweet smelling incense on the altar.

One day, when Zacharias was burning the incense, an angel appeared on the right side of the altar. Zacharias was afraid, but the angel spoke kindly to him. He said, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John" (Luke 1:13). Many people would be glad at John's birth, for he would be the man who made people ready for the coming of God's promised Son.

Zacharias was amazed at what the angel said. He asked the angel how he would know that the angel was telling the truth.

Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time" (Luke 1:19-20). *Mute* means "unable to speak."

While the angel was speaking to Zacharias, the people outside the temple were growing worried. They did not know what was taking the priest so long, and they wondered if something had happened to him.

Finally, Zacharias came outside, and the people asked him what had happened. But Zacharias was unable to say a word and could not tell the people what had happened. The people were amazed and understood that Zacharias had seen a vision, but they did not know what Zacharias had heard.

After his work at the temple was done, Zacharias went home to his wife, Elizabeth. Sure enough, the angel's words came true, and Elizabeth knew that she was going to have a baby. Elizabeth was very happy and knew that her baby would be a special gift from the Lord.

Questions

- 1. Who was Zacharias' wife?
2. What was Zacharias' job?
3. The angel appeared to Zacharias and told him he would have a son that he should name
4. Zacharias was unable to speak when he came out of the temple because he did not the angel.

Thought Question

Why was it important to have someone born before Jesus who would proclaim the coming of Jesus to the people?

Catechism

Question 109: What is prayer?

Answer 109: Prayer is praising God, giving thanks for all his blessings, and asking him for the things he has promised in the Bible.

Memory Verse

Matthew 6:9

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

LESSON 3

The Angel's Message

Luke 1:26-56

In the city of Nazareth lived a young woman who was Elizabeth's cousin. Her name was Mary, and although she was not yet married, she soon would be because she was engaged to a good man named Joseph.

One day, when Mary was alone, the angel Gabriel appeared to her with a joyful message. Mary had found favor with God and was called blessed among women. God was going to give Mary the greatest honor that any woman had ever had. God would send Mary a son, a boy who would also be the Son of God Himself. This was the child God had promised to Eve, to Abraham, and all the way to Isaiah. This was the child for whom all Israel had been waiting, the child who would save God's people from their sins.

Mary asked the angel how she could have a child when she was not married. Gabriel explained that Mary's son would not have an earthly father. Instead, He would be the Son of God. Because He was the Son of Mary as well as the Son of God, this baby would be both God and man.

It sounded impossible, but Gabriel told Mary, "With God nothing will be impossible" (Luke 1:37).

So Mary humbly answered, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

Before Gabriel left, he told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was also going to have a baby. When Gabriel did leave, Mary was so full of joy and wonder that she went immediately to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

Mary made the journey quickly. When she arrived, she found Elizabeth and greeted her. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's voice, the baby in her womb leaped. Then Elizabeth greeted Mary saying, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" (Luke 1:42). Elizabeth was honored that the mother of her Lord would come to visit her.

Then Mary poured out her heart in praise to God. She said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior ... holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him ... He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever" (Luke 1:46-55).

Mary and Elizabeth were so joyful over what the Lord had done for them. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. After that long visit, she went back home to prepare to have her baby.

Questions

- 1. Mary lived in what city?
2. To whom was Mary engaged?
3. With God _____ will be impossible.
4. When Elizabeth heard Mary's voice, the baby _____ in her womb.

Thought Question

Why was it important for the coming Savior to be both God and man?

Catechism

Question 109: What is prayer?

Answer 109: Prayer is praising God, giving thanks for all his blessings, and asking him for the things he has promised in the Bible.

Memory Verse

Matthew 6:9

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.



LESSON 4

The Birth of John

Luke 1:57-80

Not long after all these things, it was time for Elizabeth’s baby to be born. Just as the angel had promised Zacharias, the baby was a boy. Zacharias and Elizabeth were very happy, and all their friends and neighbors rejoiced with them.

When the boy was eight days old, all of Zacharias and Elizabeth’s friends came together for a celebration. According to Jewish tradition, this was the day that the baby was given a name.

All the friends and relatives thought it would be nice to name the baby boy after his father and call him Zacharias. Elizabeth, however, told all her friends no. She told them firmly that the baby was to be named John. Her friends were confused. No one in the family was named John, and they saw no reason to name this baby John.

Ever since Zacharias had met the angel in the temple, he had not been able to speak. Yet he had communicated to Elizabeth that the baby should be named John. Now Zacharias could still not speak, but the friends turned to him and asked what the baby’s name should be.

Zacharias asked for something to write on. They gave him a writing tablet, and Zacharias wrote, “His name is John” (Luke 1:63). As soon as he wrote those words, Zacharias was

able to speak again. He began to praise God. When all the friends and neighbors heard Zacharias begin to speak, they became afraid and amazed.

The story of Zacharias and the birth of his son John was discussed throughout the entire land. Everyone who heard it was amazed and wondered what kind of man John would grow up to be.

Then Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to prophesy. He blessed God for His mercy and deliverance. Then he turned to his son and said, “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Day-spring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:76-79).

The hand of the Lord was with John as he grew up. He grew to become a man of strong and noble spirit. When he was old enough, he went out to live in the desert. John stayed there in the desert until it was time to do the work God had called him to do: prepare the way for Jesus, the Son of God.

Questions

- The friends and neighbors were confused about the baby’s name because _____ in the _____ family was named _____.
- As soon as he wrote the baby’s name, Zacharias was able to _____.
- God called John to _____ the way for _____.
- Where did John live until he was ready for that work? _____

Thought Question

Why did all the people who heard the story wonder what kind of man John would grow up to be?

Catechism

Question 109: What is prayer?

Answer 109: Prayer is praising God, giving thanks for all his blessings, and asking him for the things he has promised in the Bible.

Memory Verse

Matthew 6:9

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

LESSON 5

Week 1 Review

Memory Verse

Matthew 6:9

Catechism

Question 1: Who made you?

Question 2: What else did God make?

Question 3: Why did God make you and all things?

Question 4: How can you glorify God?

Question 109: What is prayer?

To the Teacher : The answers to catechism questions 1–4 are found on page 301.

Activity

Number the Order of Events

Number the parts of Zacharias' story in order from one to nine.

- ___ Elizabeth has a baby boy.
- ___ Gabriel appears to Zacharias.
- ___ Gabriel appears to Mary.
- ___ Zacharias names his son John.
- ___ The baby leaps in Elizabeth's womb.
- ___ Zacharias is able to speak again.
- ___ Mary is amazed to hear that her child will be God's Son.
- ___ Zacharias is not able to speak.
- ___ Mary goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth.