



When you are unable to tell!

PRAYER

We welcome you with us Lord Jesus, open our hearts and minds to what you want to speak to us or reveal to us today.

Amen.

STARTER

- Play a game of charades using some Christmas carols or films.
- Is there a fact you find hard to believe?
- Maybe use some of the Ripley's "Believe it or Not!" hard to believe facts to create a true/false quiz.

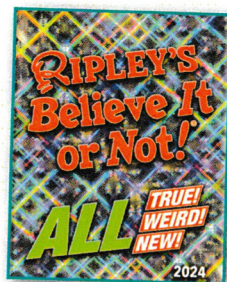


READ – LUKE 1 v5-22

Read it through twice, have different voices read and use different versions of the bible if you can.

Is there anything that has made you go wow I didn't realise that or hadn't read it like that before?

Is there anything that you don't understand or that you are not sure about?



QUESTIONS

1. What do you think being righteous in God's eyes looked like in this passage and do you think that looks different today? *v6*
2. Why do you think Zachariah didn't believe the angel?
3. Do you think he was justified in his response to the angel in verse 18?
4. Do you think the Angel Gabriel's response was a bit harsh? Why/why not?
5. How does it feel when you can't communicate with someone?

*Francis of Assis said
"Preach the gospel at all times
and if necessary use words"*

6. Even though Zachariah couldn't speak the people knew he had seen a vision...
...How do people see that you are a Christian?
7. Has there been a time when you have not believed something possible even though you prayed for it?
8. Do you ever feel like you don't have the words?
9. Is there someone you find it difficult to share your faith with?



ACTION

Plan an act of kindness everyday this week include family, friends, neighbours, your church family and strangers.

PRAY...for your church Christmas plans, pray new people come and they want to know more about Jesus

PRAY...for all those involved in making the events at your church happen those planning the services, those advertising,

those who will decorate or clean the church, those welcoming and those playing music.

PRAY...for Christians all over the world especially those who are persecuted because of their faith.

PRAY...for inter-faith relations and peace across the world this Advent and Christmas season.

GET CREATIVE

Create a collage of ways of telling people good news. You could use pictures from magazines or printed from the internet, or using lots of different materials to create the images. Could you put up the collage as part of your Christmas display either at church or home?



SONGS

Hallelujah Anyway

*I'll find a way to praise You
From the bottom of my broken heart
'Cause I think I'd rather strike a match than curse the dark
Yeah, I'll find a way to thank You
Though the bitterness is real and hard
'Cause I'd rather take a chance on hope than fall apart
I don't think I'm ready to surrender to the dark, no
Even if my daylight never dawns
Even if my breakthrough never comes
Even if I'll fight to bring You praise
Even if my dreams fall to the ground
Even if I'm lost, I know I'm found
Even if my heart will somehow say
Hallelujah anyway*

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed
Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
This grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home
When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright, shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun
Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see*