

Small Group

Bible Passage: Judges—Luke 1:25

(Mini Big God Story from Judges to Jesus)



# God Prepares the Way

## Remember Verse

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

Luke 1:68

**RESPOND**//15 minutes



## Reflect: God Prepares the Way

Leaders, encourage the kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

### QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER KIDS

- Why did the Israelites want a king? 1 Samuel 8:1–5
- What do you think it was like for Zechariah to see an angel after his people hadn't seen any miracles or signs for 400 years?
- What would you think if you saw an angel?
- What's the longest you've ever had to wait for something? What was that experience like?
- How does God prepare our hearts to receive His plans for our lives?

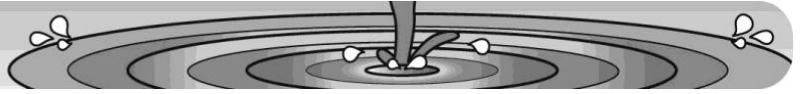
### QUESTIONS FOR OLDER KIDS

- Who were some of the judges, and how did God use them? Judges 1—8
- Why did the Israelites want a king? 1 Samuel 8:1–5
- How do you think the time of the judges prepared the hearts of the Israelites to receive the Messiah? Judges 13:1 The time of kings? 2 Samuel 7
- What do you think it was like for Zechariah to see an angel after his people hadn't seen any miracles or signs for 400 years?
- What would you think if you saw an angel?
- What's the longest you've ever had to wait for something? What was that experience like?
- How does God prepare our hearts to receive His plans for our lives?
- How has God prepared a path for you or your family? Leaders, share age-appropriate stories of your own.

### RELATE

For hundreds of years, God prepared the hearts of His people to receive His Son, the Messiah—the Savior of the world. During Christmastime, we spend the month of December preparing our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth. We celebrate His birth because He has done so much for us! What is one way Jesus has changed your life? What do you want to praise Him for today?

## BLESS//5 minutes



*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

### RELATE

Later on, the baby John became known as John the Baptist. God prepared for His Son to come and planned for John to announce Jesus' ministry on earth. Here are some words from the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament that talk about God preparing the way. Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, palms up, and close their eyes as you read from Isaiah 40:3–5a:

**A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together."**

Then speak the following blessing over the group:

**God has prepared a way for you to know Him. May you know the depths of His love for you. May you go out and share God's love everywhere you go.**