



# GROUP ACTIVITY

## Zechariah and Elizabeth

**BIG IDEA:** God is gracious, so we can find joy in the gift of His Son.

**BIBLE BASIS:** Luke 1:5-25

**KEY VERSE:** "The LORD is gracious, kind and tender. He is slow to get angry and full of love." Psalm 145:8 (NIRV)

### Unspoken Presents

**Supplies:** Slips of paper (3 per kid), bowls (2 per group) and markers

**Say:** What happened in our story today to Zechariah? Why did that happen? Does anyone know what the word "gracious" means? (Take answers.) Great thoughts! The word gracious means "to show kindness." Because God is gracious and slow to get angry, in our Bible story today He gave Zechariah an incredible gift he didn't deserve. What was that gift? Has that ever happened to you? Have you ever been given a gift you didn't deserve?

**Directions:** Give everyone 3 slips of paper and have them write on each one a gift they have received in the past. Divide the group into 2 teams and have each team place their slips of paper in a bowl. Next, choose one person from each team to go first. They are going to act out, without talking, as many of the slips of paper as they can in 20 seconds. Have each person take a turn. They can skip if they want but the slip of paper needs to go back into the bowl. After everyone has had a turn, declare the winning team.

**Say:** Most of the time we receive gifts that we did not earn or deserve. And that is exactly what happened over 2,000 years ago, on the very first Christmas, God gave us the best gift ever—the gift of His Son, Jesus. He didn't give us Jesus because we deserve Him, He gave us Jesus because He is gracious and He loves us. He gave us Jesus so that our sins could be forgiven and we could spend forever with Him in Heaven. That's the good news of Christmas that brings great joy to everyone who hears it!

**Question:** Why does the good news of Jesus bring you joy?

**Question:** What are ways you have shared the joy you have for Jesus with your family and friends?

**Question:** During Christmas it is easy to become focused on the gifts, food and decorations. What is one way you can remember to celebrate the good news of Jesus at Christmas?