

choose who they would like to be. Ask each group to stand together. **When your character does something, all of you in that group should pretend to do it. Or when your character says something, all of you in that group should say those words after me. Ready?**

Read Luke 1:8, 9, 11-13, 18-20, 57-66. Pause in places where kids should act out what's happening. When a character says something, read in short phrases so kids can repeat the words. When finished, distribute the leaflets and pencils and have kids look at the Zechariah's Story activity. Ask kids to work together in pairs to finish the letter. When students are done, let pairs of kids share their answers.

ASK: What surprised you the most about the events that were a part of the birth of John? Accept kids' responses.

If you had been in Zechariah's situation, what do you think you would have said to the angel?

Why was Zechariah punished? (didn't believe the angel's message)

Was Zechariah's unusual punishment fair? Defend your answer.

SAY: Zechariah the priest had served God for many years. He had studied God's Word. Yet when Zechariah had the opportunity to believe God and the message the angel gave him, Zechariah didn't do it. He doubted God. And he suffered the consequence. But God kept His promise to Zechariah and his wife and blessed them with a son. And they named him John just as the angel told them to do. And what a son he would be! John had a unique role in God's story and in God's sending salvation. Through it all, Zechariah discovered that he could ♥ believe what God says.

Bible Memory Colossians 1:10

"Live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God."

Display the Colossians 1:10 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Have kids turn in their Bibles to Colossians 1:10, and have a volunteer read it aloud.

ASK: To whom did Paul write the book of Colossians? (the church at Colossae; see verse 2)

SAY: Paul told the church at Colossae that he prayed and thanked God for them. He encouraged them to keep doing great things for God. Direct kids' attention to the Bible Memory poster. Ask kids why we would want to "live a life worthy of the Lord and please him." Ask students to think about that as you write these heads on the board, spaced apart: "Why?" and "How?" and "How?"

Under "Why?", write kids' responses to why we want to "live a life worthy of the Lord and please him." Then ask students to think about how we can be "bearing fruit [being productive] in every good work." Write their responses under "How?" Then ask kids to think about how we can be "growing in the knowledge of God." Write their responses under the second "How?" Be sure to discuss their ideas.

SAY: Pleasing God—that's what it's all about for Christians! When we ♥ believe what God says, that pleases Him a whole lot.

Materials

Bibles, *Resources* sheet 4, reusable adhesive, paper, pencils, whiteboard, dry-erase m

Note

The Bible Memory in the *James Version* is included in the *Resources CD*.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print and use the *Resources CD* Optional Bible Skills 1 printable file.