

Zacharias and the Birth of John

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80



The Story

Have you ever made a promise to someone? Today's story is about a very important promise that God made to all people! Because of sin, all people need a Savior. God promised to send a special person to tell people about the coming Savior, Jesus.

Once there was a priest named Zacharias who was married to a woman named Elizabeth. They worshiped and loved God, but were sad because they had no children.

One day, Zacharias was doing his work in the church, when suddenly he saw an angel of the Lord! Zacharias was very scared, but the angel told him not to be afraid. The angel said that God had heard Zacharias' prayers and would send him a son! The angel also told him to name his son John.

Zacharias wondered how he could have a son since he was so old. The angel said to him, "God sent me to tell you this good news! Because you did not believe me, you will not be able

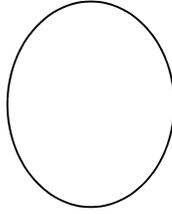
to speak until the baby is born." At that moment, Zacharias lost his voice and was not able to speak. Finally, the time came for Elizabeth to have the baby. Since it was a boy, all the friends and relatives wanted to name him Zacharias after his father, but Elizabeth told them his name would be John. The relatives asked Zacharias what to name the baby. Because he could not talk, Zacharias wrote on a tablet "His name is John." Suddenly he was able to speak again! Zacharias thanked and praised God.

Everyone was amazed at the birth of John, for they knew that he was a special baby. Do you know why John was so special? The Lord chose him to tell people about Jesus. The people were excited because they knew that Jesus would be coming to save them from their sins!

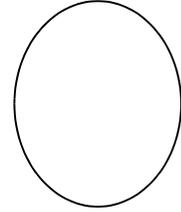
God kept His promise to send a special person to tell people about Jesus. We know God always keeps His promises to us!

Something to Think About - On each circle, draw Zacharias' face to show how he felt...

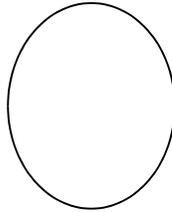
when he saw the angel.



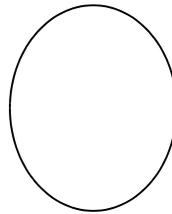
when he heard that Elizabeth would have a baby.



when the baby was born.



when God let him speak again.



Recalling the Story - Circle the word that belongs in each sentence.

1. Zacharias was a (king, priest, baker).
2. Zacharias and Elizabeth thought they were too (young, old, poor) to have a baby.
3. The angel told Zacharias to name the baby (Zacharias, Jesus, John).
4. God took away Zacharias' voice because Zacharias (doubted God, got angry at God, believed God).
5. John's important job was to (rule people, raise animals, tell people about Jesus).
6. God always (keeps, breaks, forgets) His promises.

Passages

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Jesus said, "Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Matthew 28:20

Talking to Jesus

Dear Jesus,
We are happy You always keep Your promises. Thank You for sending John to tell people about You. Thank You for coming to die for our sins so we can be with You in heaven. Amen.