

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.

In the city of Jerusalem there was a priest named Zacharias. He had a wife named Elizabeth, and they worshiped and loved God. But they were sad that 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 told him that God had heard his prayers and would send him a son! The angel also told him to name his son John.

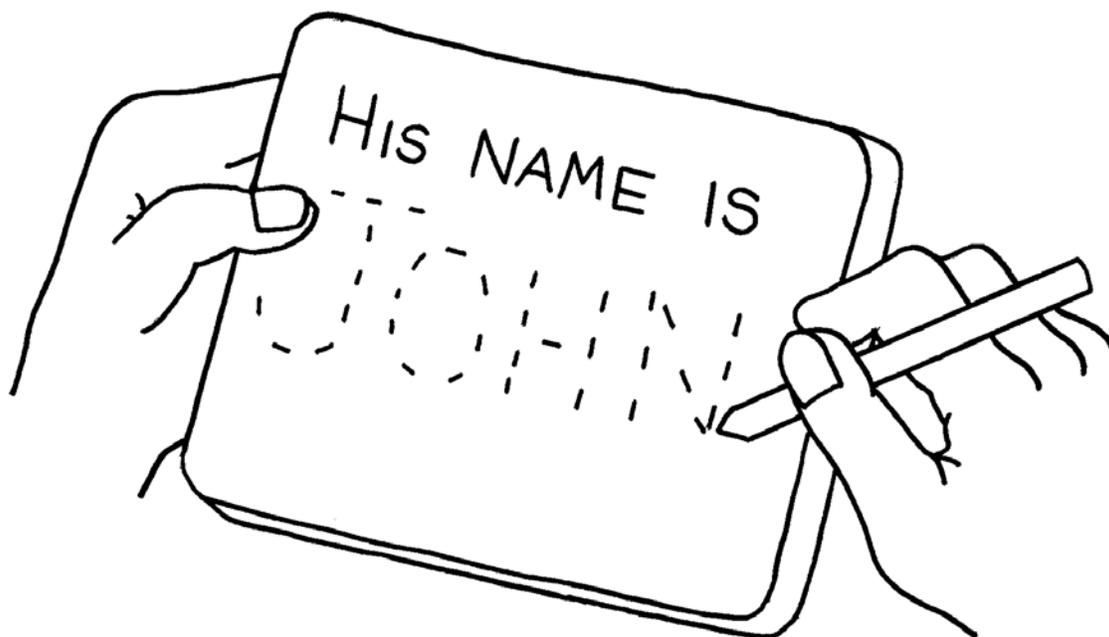
Zacharias wondered how this would happen since he was so old. The angel said to him, "God sent me to tell you this good news! Because you did not believe me, you will not be able to speak until the baby is

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. So the relatives asked Zacharias what to call 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.

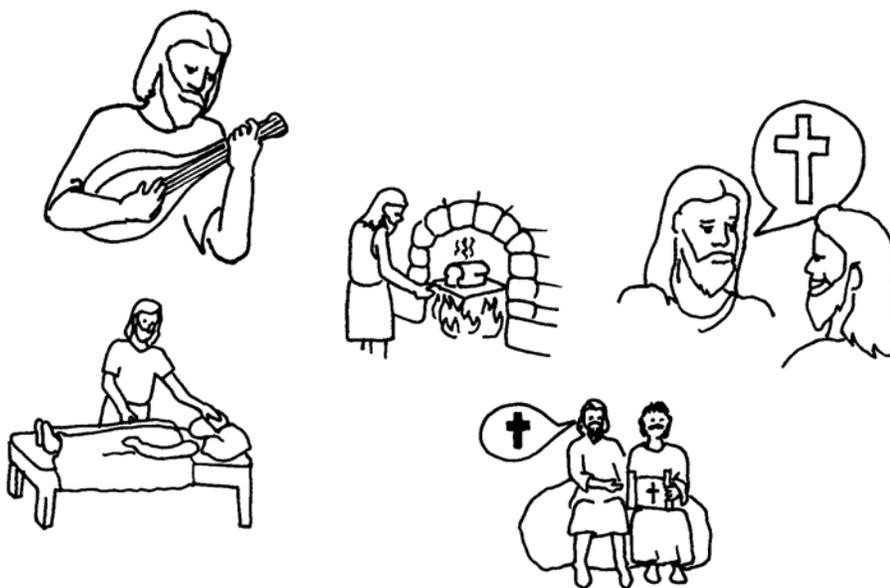
Everyone was amazed at the birth of John, for they knew that he was a special baby. Do you know why John was so special? The Lord chose him to prepare the way for Jesus. The people were excited because they knew that Jesus would be coming to save them from their sins! God kept His promise to send a special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

We are happy that God always keeps His promises to us.

Activity One - Trace the letters on Zacharias' tablet to show what the baby's name will be.



Activity Two - What special job did God give to John? Circle the picture that shows what John should do.



GOD

always keeps His promises!

Activity Three- What special job did God give to You? Draw a picture that shows how you can be like John.

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.