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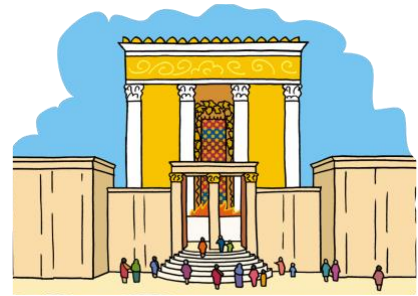
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BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (Luke 1)



The Bible says that Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth were old. But they had no children, and that made them sad. Zechariah was a priest who helped in God's temple.



One day a very special thing happened to him. He was chosen to be the one priest to go inside the temple and burn incense while the people stood outside and prayed. Zechariah must have felt especially happy as he entered the temple.



Suddenly an angel appeared in front of him! The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah. God has heard your prayer. Your wife Elizabeth will have a son. You will name him John. He will help people follow God's chosen leader.

"How can this happen?" he asked. "My wife and I are old." The angel answered, "I am the angel Gabriel. God sent me to deliver this good news to you. But now, since you did not believe my news, you will not be able to talk until my words come true."



Outside, the people wondered why Zechariah was staying so long inside the temple. But when he did come out, he couldn't tell them. The angel's words had come true: Zechariah couldn't talk.



And more of the angel's words came true. Elizabeth was going to have a baby. Everyone was so happy for them. Mary, Elizabeth's cousin visited. When she came in, Elizabeth's baby jumped in her belly! Mary and Elizabeth knew that this was God's plan.

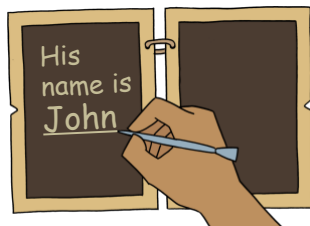


When the baby was born, it was a boy, just as the angel had said. When the baby was eight days old, many friends and relatives came for a party to give the baby his name.

As people gathered for the party, they talked about how the baby would probably be named Zechariah after his father. But Elizabeth heard them and said, "No, his name will be John!"



The guests were surprised. "But none of your relatives have that name."



Zechariah still could not talk. So, he asked for a writing tablet and on it wrote, "His name is John."

All of the sudden Zechariah realized that he could talk! He began praising God for the wonderful way He had kept His promises. He explained to the people that John was a special baby, and God had a special plan for him. He will grow up to be a prophet and prepare the way for people to follow the Lord. John grew up to be "strong in Spirit."

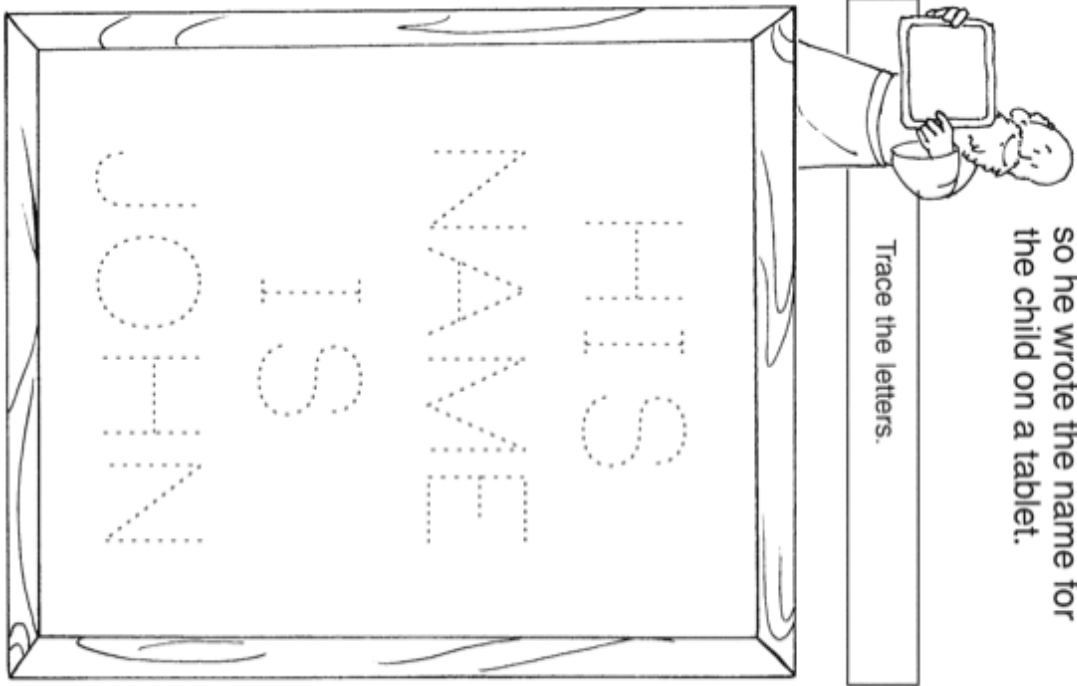


Zechariah and Elizabeth were excited to have a son after all these years. But they were even happier that God had chosen them to be the parents of a boy who would grow up and help others follow God's own Son.

Remember this Key Verse: Luke 1:37 "For nothing is impossible with God."

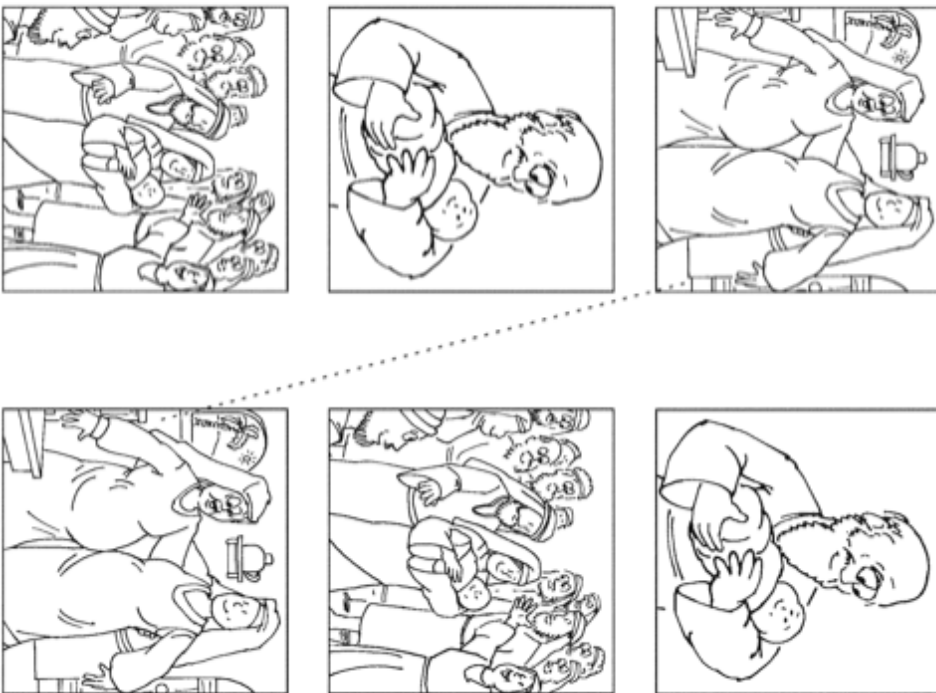
Zechariah was unable to speak,
so he wrote the name for
the child on a tablet.

Trace the letters.



The Lord had shown them great mercy and
everyone shared in their joy!

Match the pictures.



CANYON KIDS:



TODAY'S LESSON: BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (Luke 1)

1. **KNOW GOD'S WORD:** Memorize this Key Verse:

Luke 1:37 "...Nothing is impossible with God."

Write the words on the lines below:

“Nothing is
impossible with
God.” (Luke 1:37)

Talk about it with your parents or teacher:

2. **GROW:** How do you want to grow to be like Zechariah & Elizabeth?
3. **GO:** Baby John is Jesus' cousin. He will help his cousin by helping people to follow him. Do you have a cousin? How can you love or help him/her?

CANYON KIDS:



TODAY'S LESSON: BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (Luke 1)

KNOW GOD'S WORD: Memory Verse: "...Nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

Write the words of the memory verse on the lines below:

GROW: Respect God's plan. Old Testaments prophets said that someone would come to help prepare people's hearts so that they would follow Jesus. Underline the words that describe what John will do:

- *Isaiah 40:3* (Written in 700 B.C.) "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD... Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'"
- *Malachi 3:1* (Written 430 B.C.)
"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before Me."
- *Luke 1:17* says that John will be like the prophet Elijah.
"He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

GO: Prepare your heart and let your light shine!