

Upper Elementary

Zechariah and Elizabeth

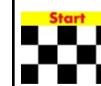
All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

Checklist

- masking tape
- string (or paper straws), cut into as many pieces as there are children, cut to 4 inches, except one that is cut to 2 inches

Topic:	Birth of John the Baptist
Intro:	Have the children line up single file at a line of tape on the floor. Have each child do a “standing broad jump” from the tape as far as they can. As we study the life of John the Baptist we are going to see the “jump” from the Old Testament to the New Testament.
Luke 1:5-7	There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the priestly division of Abijah. He had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. They were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they both were well advanced in years.
timeline	When the Israelites returned to their homeland, they were still under the rule of the Persian Empire. Just as Daniel had said about Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire. Then a group of Jews called the Maccabees revolted and Israel was ruled by the Jews again for a short time. But when the Roman Empire took over the Greek Empire, they conquered Israel, too. The Roman ruler, called a Caesar, put King Herod in charge of Israel, now called Judea.
	In Bible times having children was very important. Children are a blessing, so if someone couldn't have children, others thought they were not blessed (and thus, were not loved) by God. Just because God has not given someone the things He has given you (a nice home, getting to go to the school or camp you want, fancy vacations, parents who are married, grandparents who are still alive), does that mean God loves them any less? (NO!)

Forerunner



Zechariah and Elizabeth

1



Luke 1:5-7

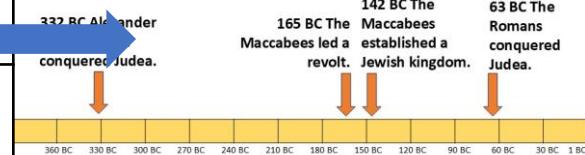
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God has blessed me with _____

If others don't have the same thing, it means God



still loves them
 doesn't love them



Luke 1:8-12 Now while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his division according to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to enter into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. The whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

strings Demonstrate drawing lots. This was the priests' custom for choosing which of them would go inside the temple to burn incense. Since there were many priests, and this was done once a year, each priest might only get to do this once or twice during his life. It was a special privilege. God had not sent any message to the Israelites in over 400 years. Imagine how it must have felt to receive a message from God after all that time.

Luke 1:13-15 But the angel said to him, "Don't be afraid, Zacharias, because your request has been heard. Your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

Often when angels appear to people, the first thing they say is "Do not be afraid." Why do you think this is? How would you feel if an angel appeared to you?



Luke 1:8-12

2

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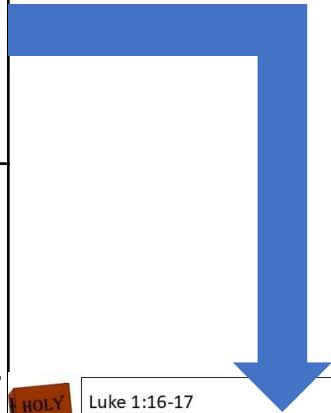
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Luke 1:13-15

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Luke 1:16-17	<p>He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will 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 prepare a people prepared for the Lord.”</p>	
	<p>Put together a couple of pairs of children. Make one the forerunner of the other. Send the pairs out of the room and have one forerunner come in and announce the coming of the other child. (“Listen everyone, here comes Joey. He’s on his way and he’ll be here soon. Joey is about to arrive; get ready for Joey.”) Have “Joey” come in and let the class applaud him. Repeat the process with the next pair of children. Explain that this is what John the Baptist did as the forerunner of Jesus.</p>	 <p>Luke 1:16-17</p> <p>He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will 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 prepare a people prepared for the Lord.”</p>
Luke 1:18-20	<p>Zacharias said to the angel, “How can I be sure of this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.” The angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God. I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. Behold, you will be silent and not able to speak until the day that these things will happen, because you didn’t believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time.”</p>	 <p>Luke 1:18-20</p> <p>Zacharias said to the angel, “How can I be sure of this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.” The angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God. I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. Behold, you will be silent and not able to speak until the day that these things will happen, because you didn’t believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time.”</p>
	<p>The angel introduced himself. What was his name? Gabriel means “Hero of God.” Gabriel was God’s special messenger who carried God’s good news to people. You would think just seeing an angel would convince Zechariah that the message he carried was true! He told Zechariah it was God’s message. It might seem harsh to punish Zechariah for this, but God was not asking him to do anything, like lead 300 soldiers against thousands. He was simply being told that God would answer his prayers.</p>	 <p>Teach Grow Sow</p> <p>John will go ahead of the Lord</p> <p>People will get ready for the Lord</p>  <p>Zechariah didn’t believe what Gabriel said</p> <p>Zechariah was mute until John’s birth</p>  <p>Teach Grow Sow</p>

Luke 1:39-45	<p>Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah, and entered into the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came into my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy! Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of the things which have been spoken to her from the Lord!"</p>	<p>Luke 1:39-45</p> <p>Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah, and entered into the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came into my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy! Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of the things which have been spoken to her from the Lord!"</p>
	<p>Who was Mary pregnant with? (Jesus) Even in the womb, Jesus' presence was so strong that it made Elizabeth's baby jump for joy. The Holy Spirit let Elizabeth know this way that there was something very special about Mary's baby.</p>	<p>Mary was pregnant with</p> <p>Being near Him made Elizabeth's baby</p> <p> Teach Grow Sow</p>

Luke 1:57-62	<p>When Elizabeth's son was born, her neighbors and relatives heard how kind the Lord had been to her, and they too were glad. Eight days later they did for the child what the Law of Moses commands. They were going to name him Zechariah, after his father. But Elizabeth said, "No! His name is John." The people argued, "No one in your family has ever been named John." So they motioned to Zechariah to find out what he wanted to name his son.</p>
	<p>Ask children how they got their names (if they know). Some children are named after family members, or they have other special stories about their names. Why was the baby going to be named John? (it is what God commanded)</p>
Luke 1:63-66	<p>He asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." They all marveled. His mouth was opened immediately and his tongue freed, and he spoke, blessing God. Fear came on all who lived around them, and all these sayings were talked about throughout all the hill country of Judea. All who heard them laid them up in their heart, saying, "What then will this child be?" The hand of the Lord was with him.</p>
	<p>Have everyone hold their breath for as long as they can. When they breathe again, they will let out a loud noise of relief. This must be how Zechariah felt when he could finally speak again. Everyone in town knew that Zechariah had been mute for nine months. What do you think they thought when he finally started speaking again? What did it make them think about John?</p>

Luke 1:57-62

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Isaiah?

Boaz?

Saul?

Judah?

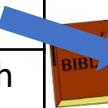


Luke 1:67-69 His father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people; and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David."

After all that time not speaking, Zechariah didn't go around telling everyone things he had been holding in ("You thought I wasn't saying anything because I agreed with you, but I actually had a really good comeback!") Instead, his first words were those of praise to God. He prophesied about the Savior God was sending. Was that Savior John? Who was it?

Luke 1:76-77 "And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the remission of their sins."

When parents dedicate their child to God, they often say special things about the child. What special things did Zechariah declare about John? (He would get things ready for the Lord, he will tell people they can be saved when their sins are forgiven.)



Luke 1:67-69

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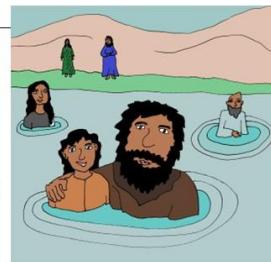


Luke 1:76-77

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John would be:

- a prophet of God
- the promised Savior
- a great servant of the Lord
- full of the Holy Spirit
- someone who drinks wine and beer



Teach Grow Sow

The people of Israel had to wait a long time for the promised Messiah to arrive. Zechariah and Elizabeth had to wait a very long time to become parents. Then Zechariah had to wait a very long time before he could speak. Do you think this helped them to become more patient? How can you be more patient at Christmas time? (helping with preparations, not complaining when you don't get to do a favorite holiday activity, thanking your family for all they do around Christmas, etc.)

Closing: Imagine Zechariah coming home to tell Elizabeth about everything that happened, but unable to speak. Imagine you are Zechariah, how would you act out the events that you just experienced. Hand children the cards with things Zechariah might have said and have them take turns acting out what Zechariah may have done.



Our son will have the power of Elijah.	Our son will be filled with the Holy Spirit.	There was an angel in the temple!	God is sending the Messiah!
Our son will help families to get along better.	Our son won't ever drink alcohol.	We are going to have a son!	Our son will be a special messenger!
The craziest thing happened at the temple!	My lot was drawn to go into the temple.	The angel took away my voice!	I won't be able to talk for nine months!
Everyone was praying outside.	It was during incense time.	You're going to become a mom!	The angel's name is Gabriel.

forever in your heart

foreigner

Our son will have the power of Elijah.

Our son will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Our son will help families to get along better.

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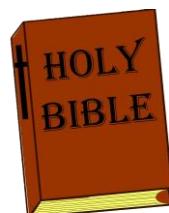
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Zechariah and Elizabeth



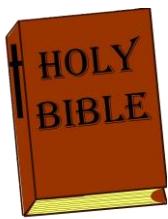
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God has blessed me with _____

If others don't have the same thing, it means God

- still loves them as much
- doesn't love them as much



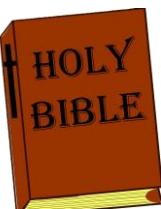
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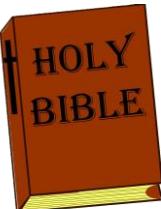
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Luke 1:16-17

3

He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will 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 prepare a people prepared for the Lord."

**John will go
ahead of the Lord**



**People will get
ready for the Lord**



Luke 1:18-20

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**Zechariah didn't believe
what Gabriel said**



**Zechariah was mute
until John's birth**

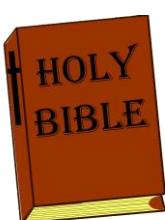


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Mary was pregnant with

Being near Him made Elizabeth's baby



Luke 1:57-62

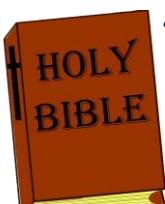
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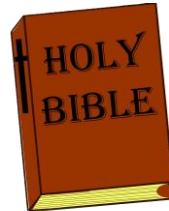
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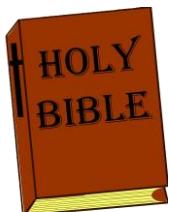
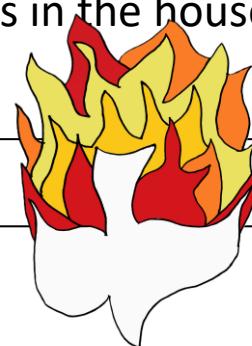
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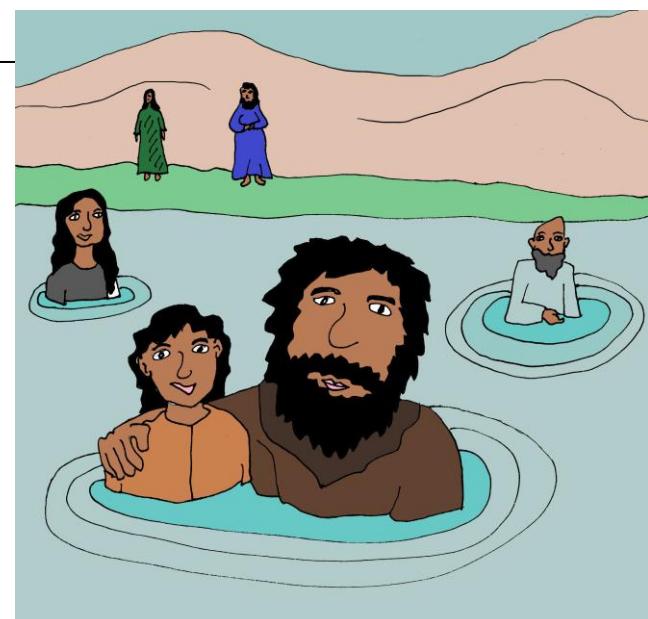
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Zechariah and Elizabeth



Name: _____

Zechariah, Elizabeth, John, Gabriel, Priest, Baptist, Angel,
Baby

nojh _____

srepti _____

hazerachi _____

biztaeleh _____

rglaieb _____

lagen _____

abyb _____

asitptb _____