

Skit for Whole Group

Zechariah & Elizabeth

Checklist

- ☐ advent calendar
- ☐ notepad or clipboard
- ☐ pen or pencil
- ☐ 2 baby dolls
- ☐ 2 canes
- ☐ crown
- ☐ trumpet with banner
- ☐ mute sign

Story:	John the Baptist's Birth
Focus:	We can trust God's promises to always come true, even when we have to wait.
Object:	advent calendar
Intro:	Do any of you have an advent calendar at home? What is it for? (to count down days till Christmas) Do you enjoy lifting the flap each day and seeing that you're just a little bit closer to Christmas? These calendars are fun because they announce an important event: Jesus' birthday. Today we're going to learn about a baby who was a human advent calendar. His whole life, starting with his birth, was all about announcing that Jesus was coming.
Skit (All Ages)	
Volunteers:	Zechariah, Elizabeth, angel
Props:	2 baby dolls, crown, trumpet, canes, mute sign, notepad or clipboard and pen or pencil
hold out baby doll with crown	God the Father was getting ready to send His Son, Jesus, to earth to rescue people from sin.
baby wearing crown follows behind baby holding trumpet	Just like a king is announced by a herald, Jesus was going to have a very special friend announce Him. He would go ahead of Him every step of the way, including being born just before Jesus.
Zechariah and Elizabeth hobble with canes	Zechariah and Elizabeth had no children and now they were as old as grandparents. They were too old to ever have a baby.
Zechariah slaps cheeks and gasps	One day when Zechariah was praying, an angel appeared to him and told him his wife would have a baby.
Zechariah laughs	Zechariah didn't believe him.
angel puts mute sign on Zechariah	The angel told Zechariah because he didn't believe God's message, he would have to stay silent until the baby was born.
Zechariah shakes head and motions	When the baby came, all their friends wanted to name him after his dad. Zechariah shook his head and asked for something to write on.
Zechariah writes & yells out, "Amen!"	Zechariah wrote, "His name is John." Immediately he could speak, and he praised God.
patience fruit	God wants us to be patient. His people waited and prayed a long time for the Messiah, and Jesus turned out to be so much more amazing than what people had expected. Then Zechariah and Elizabeth waited and prayed a long time for a baby, and they wound up having the baby who would be the messenger for Jesus.



HEAR, YE!

HEAR, YE!



HEAR, YE!
HEAR, YE!



Preschool

Zechariah & Elizabeth

Checklist

☐ bells

John the Baptist's Birth

Name: _____

Encourage children to draw a picture of their family.

Modeling dough:

Encourage children to mold something from the story, like an angel or baby.

Game:

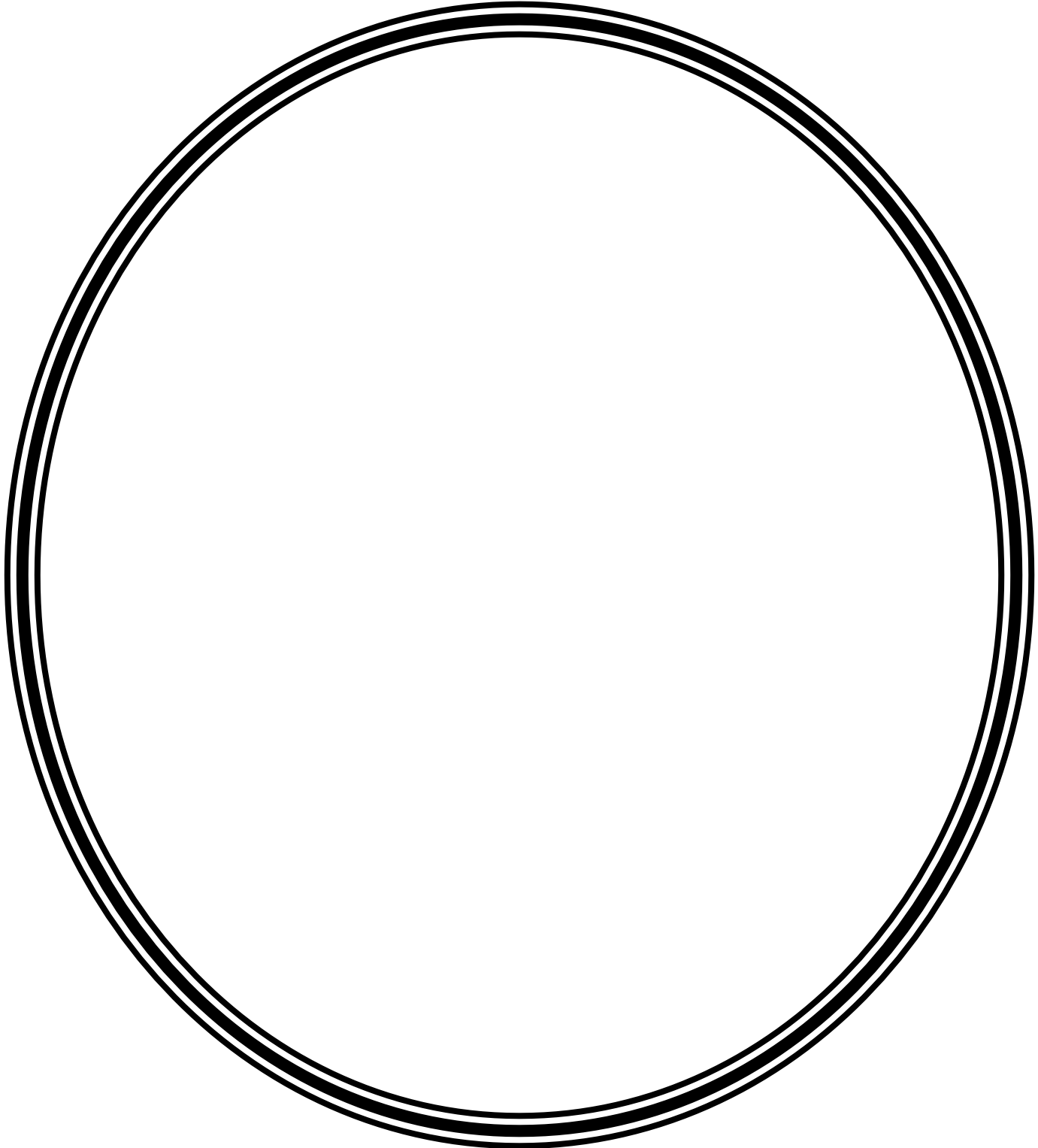
John the Baptist's job was to ring out the good news about Jesus. Later, he would go around telling everyone that Jesus was on His way. Even his birth happened just before Jesus'--letting everyone know something even more special was on the way. Let all the children take turns ringing the bells of good news for about thirty seconds. They can sing out Gloria! Jingle Bells! or Happy Birthday Jesus! while they do it.

Song:

Joy to the World

Zechariah and Elizabeth

Name: _____



My Family

Joy to the World

Joy to the world,
the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart
prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven,
and nature sing.

