



# The BIBLE Story

## John Was Born

*Luke 1*

**Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth,** were old and had no children. They lived outside of Jerusalem in the hill country and **did what was right.** Zechariah was a priest and at that time, King Herod ruled over Judea. **Twice a year, Zechariah went to the temple in Jerusalem to carry out his duties as a priest.**

Many priests served in the temple. **One day, Zechariah was chosen to go into the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense.** People gathered outside to pray, and Zechariah went inside the sanctuary. **Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared. Zechariah was terrified!**

**“Do not be afraid, Zechariah,” the angel said. “God heard your prayer. Your wife will have a son, and you will name him John.**

His birth will bring you joy. God will be with Him. The Holy Spirit will fill him even before he is born.”

**The angel said that John would help many people turn back to God. John would go ahead of the Lord and get people ready for His coming.**

**Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I know this will happen? I’m old, and my wife is old.”**

**The angel said, “God sent me to tell you this good news. Because**

**you did not believe my words, you won’t be able to speak until these things happen.”**

**Zechariah left the temple. The people outside realized he had seen a vision and could not talk.** When he was done serving in Jerusalem, **Zechariah went home to Elizabeth. In time, she became pregnant and gave birth to a son.** Her neighbors and relatives rejoiced.

**Zechariah and Elizabeth named their son John. Suddenly, Zechariah could speak again.** He began praising God. The people who lived nearby could tell that God was with John. **The Holy Spirit filled John. Zechariah praised God and told the people God’s words: “God has come to help His people. He will save us through David’s family. He will rescue us from our enemies.”** Then he spoke to John: “And you will be called a prophet of the Most High. You will go before the Lord to prepare the way for Him.”

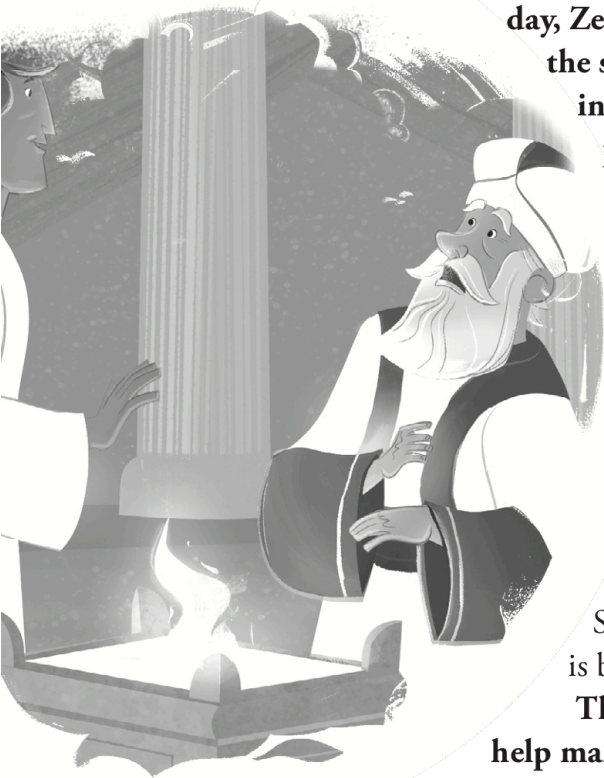
The time had come. God was going to bring His light into the darkness of the world. Peace was coming for God’s people.

**John grew up and lived in the wilderness until God called him to get the people ready for Jesus.**

*Christ Connection: When Zechariah believed God’s word, he praised God. John was born to prepare the way for Jesus. John would point people to Jesus, and they would praise God for keeping His promise to send the Savior.*

### Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Make eye contact:** As you tell the story, make eye contact with kids to draw them in. Pause at appropriate points to build anticipation when the angel appears to Zechariah.
- **Dress in costume** Wear Bible times clothes as you tell the story. Act out the role of Zechariah.





## Big Picture Question

# Is Jesus God or a human?

As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

Big Picture Question • Kid • Unit 19 • © 2019 LifeWay OK to Print

## Key Passage

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

John 1:1-2

Key Passage (NIV) • Kid • Unit 19 • © 2019 LifeWay OK to Print

## Extra Activities

Print and cut apart the “First and Second” cards. Mix up the cards and arrange them facedown on a table in a grid.

Invite kids to play a memory game, turning over two cards at a time to find cards that match as a set of first and second cards. Help kids determine if the cards form a pair. If so, the player keeps the cards and play continues. If not, the player turns the cards facedown again and play continues.

**SAY** • Malachi, the last prophet in the Old Testament, said that someone would come before Jesus. The person who would get people ready for Jesus was John! We will learn more about John today.

Gather the kids to sit in a circle. Show the different tools or pictures of tools and ask the kids to raise their hands if they know what the tool is designed to do. Call on a kid and let her describe the tool and what it does. Suggested tools: hammer, soup ladle, padlock, pencil

**SAY** • Each of those tools was designed with a specific job or purpose in mind. A hammer is great for pounding in nails, but it wouldn't work well for serving soup. Today we will learn about a baby boy whom God had big plans for. When this boy grew up, God used him to prepare the way for the Messiah. How might someone prepare the way for the Messiah?

Play charades. Before the session, write several actions on index cards. Then have one person act it out while others try to guess. No talking! (*Examples: skateboarding, opening a gift, walking a dog, building a sandcastle, playing baseball*)

**SAY** • Why was Zechariah unable to speak in today's Bible story? (*He did not believe the angel's message from God.*) Zechariah believed God's word, and he praised God. **John was born to prepare the way for Jesus.** John would point people to Jesus, and they would praise God for keeping His promise to send the Savior.

Acting out a message is one way we can communicate besides talking. We can also write words, draw pictures, or use sign language. Think of someone you can share today's story with this week and then make time to tell that person!

## Review Opener

Then choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 1:16-17.

**SAY** • The angel Gabriel told Zechariah that his son, John, would do some very important things: He would help people turn back to God. John would go ahead of the Lord and get people ready for Him. John would lead people who were disobeying God to turn back to God and follow Him. **John was born to prepare the way for Jesus.**

## Review Closer

### **Journal and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, praising God for the Bible and asking Him to help kids trust His Word. Thank Him for providing salvation through His Son, and ask Him for opportunities to serve others this week and show them the love of Jesus.

## Questions for Younger Kids

1. Where was Zechariah when Gabriel told him about John's birth? (*in the sanctuary of the Lord, Luke 1:8-10*)
2. Why was Zechariah unable to speak until John was born? (*He did not believe God at first, Luke 1:20*)
3. Where did John live when he grew up? (*in the wilderness, Luke 1:80*)
4. Can you think of times we doubt God, or struggle to understand how His plans work? *Guide kids to discuss how they feel about God in hard times. Remind kids that God is always faithful. No matter how we feel or what situations we face, God's promises are sure and will come true in His perfect timing. Help them understand that we can read our Bibles and pray to help us learn to trust God more.*
5. What are some ways God can use you to point people to Jesus? *Encourage kids to think about their friends and family members who may not love Jesus. Discuss ways to show them God's love and share the gospel with them. Remind kids that even people who know and love Jesus need to be pointed to Jesus to help them remember how good He is.*
6. When is it easy to praise God? When is it hard to? *Discuss with the kids how difficult times can make it hard to trust God, but they can also push us toward the Lord as we learn to rely on Him for support. Remind the kids that the Bible teaches we should praise God in good times and difficult times.*

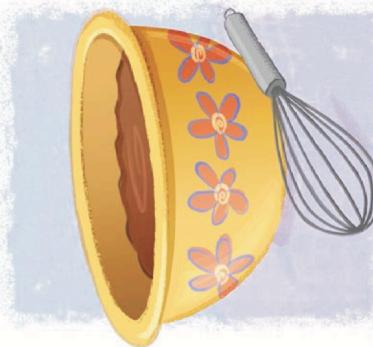
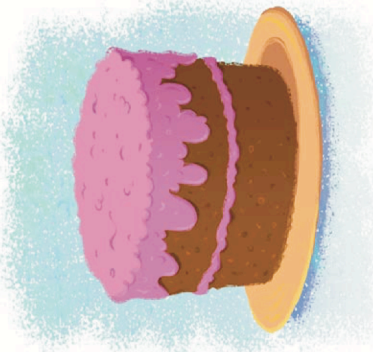
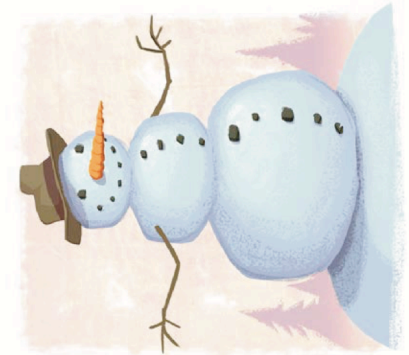
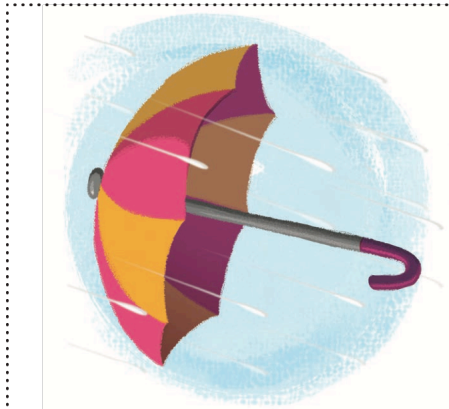
**SAY** • **John was born to prepare the way for Jesus.** We can help prepare the way for Jesus by loving others.

## Questions for Older Kids

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did Zechariah do after his son was born? *Prompt kids to recall that Zechariah named the baby John, just as the angel commanded. Then he was able to speak, and he prophesied about John, saying he would go before the Lord and get people ready for Him.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Luke 1:76-68.)
2. The name *John* means "the Lord is gracious." Where do you see God's grace in the Bible story or in your own life? *Encourage kids to give examples. Help them recognize God's grace in giving a son to Zechariah and Elizabeth. Guide them to consider undeserved favor in their lives, especially the gracious gift of salvation through Jesus.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 34:6.)
3. In what ways can we get people ready for Jesus' return? *Invite kids to share their ideas. Emphasize that Jesus commanded all believers to make disciples among the nations. (Matt. 28:19) We can all be involved by telling others about Jesus in our own communities, supporting missionaries through prayer or giving, or obeying God's call to go to the nations.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Pet. 4:7-11.)







Jesus

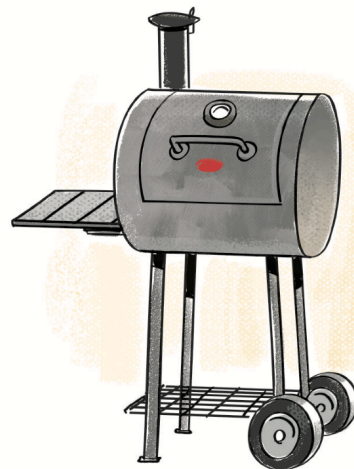
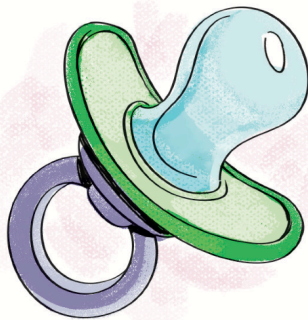
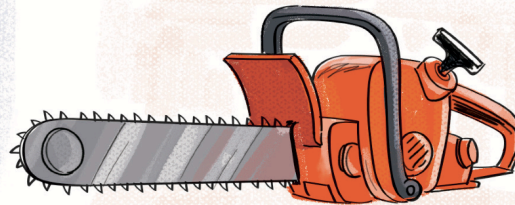


John the Baptist



# Baby or Maybe

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Circle items needed to care for a baby. Draw boxes around items that are helpful, but not necessary.



## Younger Kids Activity Pages Unit 19 • Session 2 John Was Born

### BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Zechariah and Elizabeth were too old to have children.
- God sent an angel to tell Zechariah that Elizabeth would have a son.
- Zechariah did not believe at first.
- John was born to prepare the way for Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** John 1:1-2

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Which prophet said that a messenger would prepare the way for the Messiah? (*See Mal. 3:1.*)
- What ways can you help prepare people to meet Jesus?
- How can we learn to trust God right away?

### FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Plan one-on-one time with each of your kids. Take them somewhere fun and tell them about how they became a part of your family. Were any parts of their adoptions or births a bit scary? What part of each arrival was most exciting?



**DOWNLOAD** the  
**LIFEWAY KIDS APP**





# Journal Page

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
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- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
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## John Was Born

Luke 1

### STORY POINT: JOHN WAS BORN TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR JESUS.

Twice a year, Zechariah went to the temple in Jerusalem to carry out his duties as a priest. One day, Zechariah was chosen to go into the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared.

Zechariah was terrified! "Do not be afraid, Zechariah," the angel said. "God heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will have a son, and you will name him John." The angel said that John would help many people turn back to God. John would go ahead of the Lord and get people ready for His coming. Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I know this will happen?"

The angel said, "God sent me to tell you this good news. Because you did not believe my words, you won't be able to speak until these things happen."

Zechariah left the temple. The people outside realized he had seen a vision and could not talk. Zechariah went home to Elizabeth. In time, she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. Zechariah and Elizabeth named their son John. Suddenly, Zechariah could speak again. The Holy Spirit filled John. Zechariah praised God and told the people God's words: "God has come to help His people. He will save us through David's family. He will rescue us from our enemies."

John grew up and lived in the wilderness until God called him to get the people ready for Jesus.

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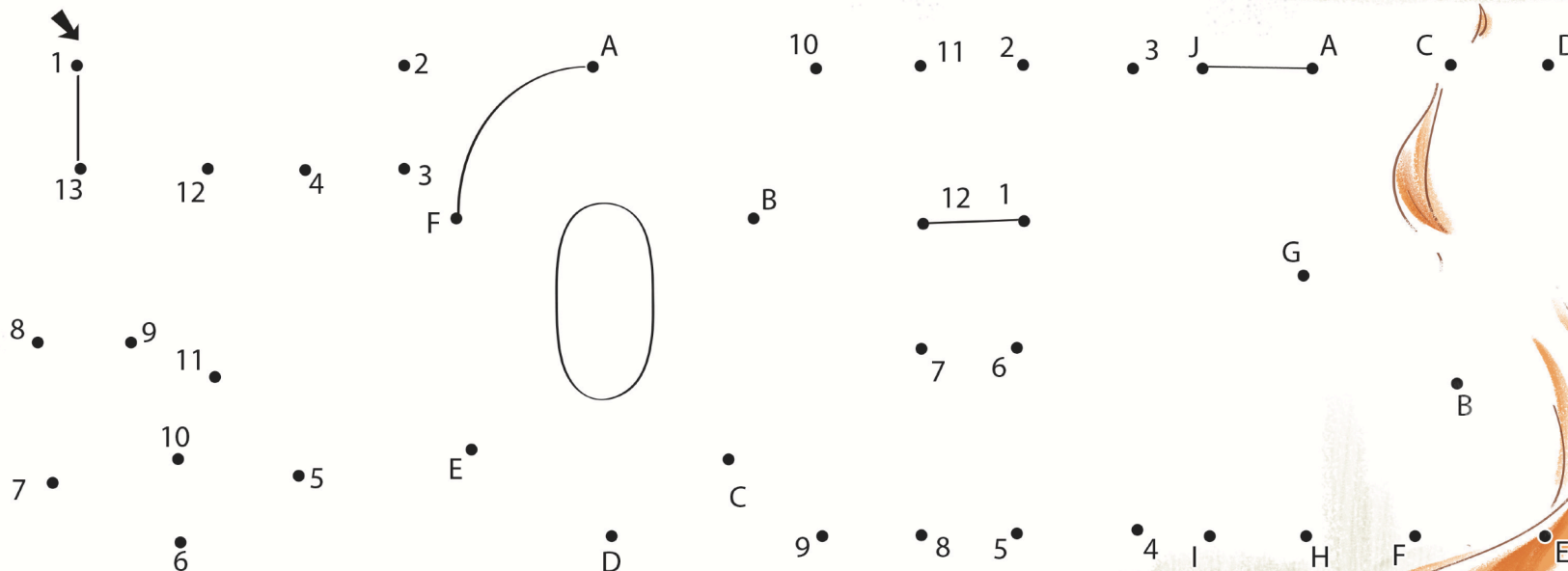


### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Do you ever doubt God's goodness toward you? Why?
- Where can we find God's messages for His people?
- Why is it important to obey God by faith?

## His Name Is ...

Complete the four dot-to-dots to discover the name of Zechariah's son.



## Missing Words

Fill in the blanks with words from the word box.

- Twice a year, Zechariah went to the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ to carry out his duties as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Zechariah went inside the sanctuary. Suddenly, an \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord appeared. Zechariah was \_\_\_\_\_!
- The angel said, "God heard your \_\_\_\_\_. Your wife will have a \_\_\_\_\_, and you will name him \_\_\_\_\_."
- The angel said that John would help many people turn back to \_\_\_\_\_. John would go ahead of the Lord and get people \_\_\_\_\_ for His coming.
- Zechariah's wife, \_\_\_\_\_, gave birth to a son. John grew up and lived in the \_\_\_\_\_ until God called him to get the people ready for Jesus.

### WORD BOX

angel  
Elizabeth  
God  
Jerusalem  
John  
prayer  
priest  
ready  
son  
temple  
terrified  
wilderness