



The BIBLE Story

John Was Born

Luke 1

Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, did not have any children. They loved God, and **Zechariah was a priest.** Two times a year, Zechariah went to Jerusalem to serve in the temple.

Many priests worked in the temple. **One day,** Zechariah was chosen to do a special job. People were praying outside, and **Zechariah went inside the temple. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared.** Zechariah was afraid!

“Do not be afraid,” the angel said. “God heard your prayer. Your wife will have a son named John. God’s Spirit will be with Him.” The angel said that John would get people ready for the Messiah to come.

“How can I know this will happen?” Zechariah asked. “I am 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 will not be able to speak until these things happen.”**

Zechariah left the temple, and he could not talk. He went home to **Elizabeth.** She **became pregnant and gave birth to a son.** Her neighbors and relatives were very happy.

Zechariah and Elizabeth named their son John. Finally,

Zechariah could speak again. He praised God. God’s Spirit was with John. Zechariah 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: **“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 dark world. Peace was coming for God’s people.

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

Christ Connection: When Zechariah believed God’s word, he praised God. Zechariah’s son, John, was born to get people ready for Jesus. People would praise God for keeping His promise to send the Savior.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• **Change voices:** As you read the story, change voices and body positions to go along with the Bible people.

• **Make it a monologue:** Invite an older male to dress in Bible times clothing and tell the Bible story from the perspective of Zechariah.

review

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Who appeared to Zechariah at the temple? (*an angel*)
2. What did the angel’s tell Zechariah? (*Elizabeth, Zechariah’s wife, would have a son named John.*)
3. Why didn’t Zechariah believe the angel at first? (*Zechariah and Elizabeth were both very old.*)
4. Why did God make Zechariah unable to talk until John was born? (*Because he did not believe the angel.*)
5. Why was John born? (**John was born to get people ready for Jesus.**)
6. *Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.*



big picture question

Is Jesus God or a human?

Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

key passage

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

John 1:1

extra activities

Prepare the way

Give preschoolers a roll of painter's tape. Ask them to work together to create a taped path on the floor for people to follow. Help children pull and tear the tape and compliment their attempts to prepare a path for other people. When children have prepared the path, walk on it. Invite friends to join you. Challenge a child to walk backwards or hop on one foot along the path.

SAY • You got the path ready for me to walk on. An angel of the Lord told Zechariah that his son, John, would be the one to get people ready for Jesus. The people had waited for many years for Jesus, and the time was almost here for Him to come. **John was born to get people ready for Jesus.** Zechariah praised God because he knew that John would be part of God's plan to send the Savior, Jesus.

Reverse charades

Print and cut apart the "Charades" cards. Gather boys and girls together and ask a child to volunteer to stand and face the group. Show the group one of the cards, being careful that the volunteer does not see it. Instruct preschoolers to act out the item pictured without using words. Everyone should be moving simultaneously, trying to mimic the pictured item while the volunteer guesses. Continue playing with a new volunteer each time.

SAY • When you moved your body so your friend would guess the word *guitar*, you used your hands to pretend make music, but you did not speak. In today's Bible story, the angel told Zechariah that he would not be able to speak because he did not believe the angel when he said that Elizabeth would have a baby. After baby John was born, Zechariah spoke and praised God because Jesus would be born soon. Zechariah understood that God would keep His promise to send a Savior. ***Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.***



guitar



ball



shoes



baby



airplane



banana



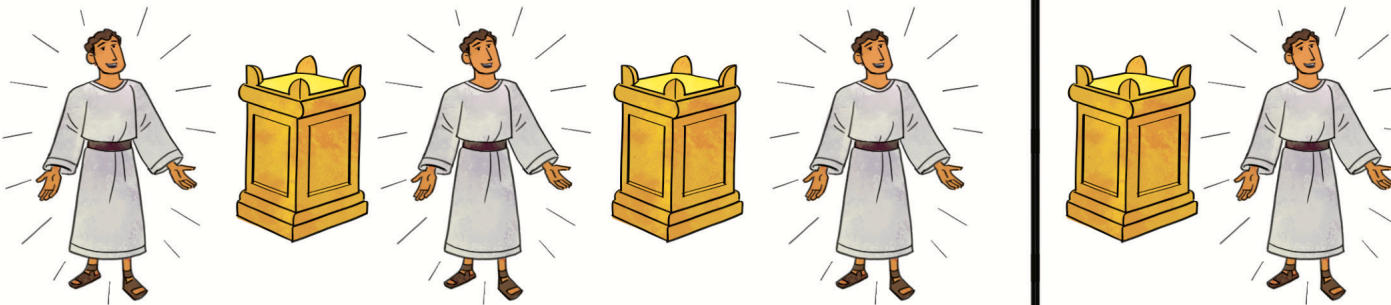
glasses



frog

Finish the Pattern

INSTRUCTIONS: Circle what comes next in each row.



Preschool Activity Pages

Unit 19 • Session 2

John Was Born

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- An angel told Zechariah that he and Elizabeth would have a son.
- God made Zechariah unable to speak because he did not believe.
- Zechariah was able to speak again when his son, John, was born.
- John was born to get people ready for Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: John 1:1

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why did Zechariah not believe the angel at first?
- What special job would John have?
- What did Zechariah do when he could speak again?
- What are some ways we can praise God for sending Jesus?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Read Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6 as a family. Talk about how Isaiah and Malachi wrote these words long before John was born.
- Speak a blessing over your children by name. Pray that God would use them to advance His kingdom and prepare the world for Jesus' return.



DOWNLOAD the
LIFEWAY KIDS APP

