



**E-Kids: At home with your family 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

### **God's gift to Zechariah**

Luke 1:5-25, 57-68, 76-78,(GNT)

<sup>5</sup> During the time when Herod was king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife's name was Elizabeth; she also belonged to a priestly family.

<sup>6</sup> They both lived good lives in God's sight and obeyed fully all the Lord's laws and commands. <sup>7</sup> They had no children because Elizabeth could not have any, and she and Zechariah were both very old.

<sup>8</sup> One day Zechariah was doing his work as a priest in the Temple, taking his turn in the daily service. <sup>9</sup> According to the custom followed by the priests, he was chosen by lot to burn incense on the altar. So he went into the Temple of the Lord, <sup>10</sup> while the crowd of people outside prayed during the hour when the incense was burned.

<sup>11</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar where the incense was burned. <sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was alarmed and felt afraid.

<sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. You are to name him John. <sup>14</sup> How glad and happy you will be, and how happy many others will be when he is born!

<sup>15</sup> John will be great in the Lord's sight. He must not drink any wine or strong drink. From his very birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup> and he will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.

<sup>17</sup> He will go ahead of the Lord, strong and mighty like the prophet Elijah. He will bring fathers and children together again; he will turn disobedient people back to the way of thinking of the righteous; he will get the Lord's people ready for him."

<sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know if this is so? I am an old man, and my wife is old also."

<sup>19</sup> "I am Gabriel," the angel answered. "I stand in the presence of God, who sent me to speak to you and tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup> But you have not believed my message, which will come true at the right time. Because you have not believed, you will be unable to speak; you will remain silent until the day my promise to you comes true."

<sup>21</sup> In the meantime the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he was spending such a long time in the Temple. <sup>22</sup> When he came

out, he could not speak to them, and so they knew that he had seen a vision in the Temple. Unable to say a word, he made signs to them with his hands.

<sup>23</sup> When his period of service in the Temple was over, Zechariah went back home. <sup>24</sup> Some time later his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and did not leave the house for five months. <sup>25</sup> "Now at last the Lord has helped me," she said. "He has taken away my public disgrace!

<sup>57</sup> The time came for Elizabeth to have her baby, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup> Her neighbours and relatives heard how wonderfully good the Lord had been to her, and they all rejoiced with her.

<sup>59</sup> When the baby was a week old, they came to circumcise him, and they were going to name him Zechariah, after his father. <sup>60</sup> But his mother said, "No! His name is to be John."

<sup>61</sup> They said to her, "But you don't have any relative with that name!" <sup>62</sup> Then they made signs to his father, asking him what name he would like the boy to have.

<sup>63</sup> Zechariah asked for a writing pad and wrote, "His name is John." How surprised they all were!

<sup>64</sup> At that moment Zechariah was able to speak again, and he started praising God. <sup>65</sup> The neighbours were all filled with fear, and the news about these things spread through all the hill country of Judea.

<sup>66</sup> Everyone who heard of it thought about it and asked, "What is this child going to be?" For it was plain that the Lord's power was upon him.

### **Zechariah's Prophecy**

<sup>67</sup> John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he spoke God's message:

<sup>68</sup> "Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel!  
He has come to the help of his people and has set them free.

<sup>76</sup> "You, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God.  
You will go ahead of the Lord  
to prepare his road for him,

<sup>77</sup> to tell his people that they will be saved  
by having their sins forgiven.

<sup>78</sup> Our God is merciful and tender.  
He will cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us



## **Intro**

Our Christmas sessions will be focusing on the Christmas story from Luke: 1&2

We are going to see four Christmas presents, and we will think about what they meant to those who first received them and what they mean for us today.

This week we see God's angel visit Zechariah with the news that God will be giving Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth the gift of a baby when they are really too old to have children.

We also get to see that God is getting ready for Jesus. Zechariah's baby is a special baby because when he grows up he will tell everyone to get ready for Jesus.

## **For Pebbles and Rocks**

Most of the children's bibles don't seem to have this story in, so it's a case of retelling the story above in a way that your child/children will be able to follow.

Here's a couple of options for video's you might want to use

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJXrSRxSX-Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFHOIiI6Vf0&t=2s>

## **Prayers**

Let's thank God for giving Zechariah and Elizabeth baby John who grew up to get everyone ready to listen to Jesus

Let's ask God to help us be excited about Jesus as we get ready for Christmas

## **Activity**

Christmas Nativity Bunting

The accompanying pdf has a templates to print on card to colour and make your own nativity

### **For Boulders and Rip Rap**

Read the passage above and try and answer the following questions about the baby that the angel promised to Zechariah and Elizabeth

- 1, What clues are there that this baby is special?
2. What special task has God got for him to do?

### **Prayers**

Let's thank God for giving Zechariah and Elizabeth baby John who grew up to get everyone ready to listen to Jesus

Let's ask God to help us be excited about Jesus as we get ready for Christmas

### **Activity**

You might want to colour some Christmas Nativity Bunting

The accompanying pdf has a templates to print on card to colour and make.

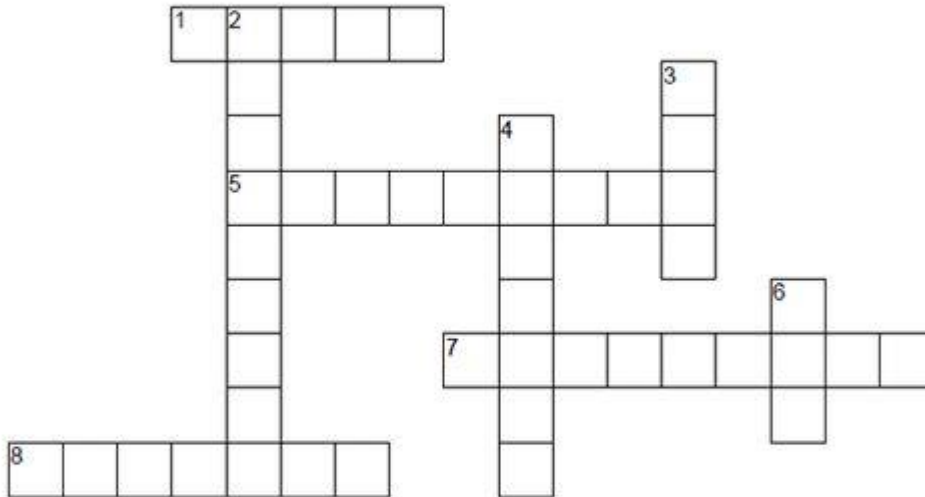
or

Have a go at some of the following

# "His Name Is John"

"And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High because you will prepare the way for the Lord." Luke 1:76 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 1:67-80



## ACROSS

1. Kind and gentle treatment of another person
5. The father of John the Baptist
7. To be forgiven of our sin
8. One who speaks for God

## DOWN

2. The mother of John the Baptist
3. The one who prepared the way for Jesus
4. To make ready
6. To disobey God's law

ZACHARIAS	MERCY	SALVATION	PREPARE
ELIZABETH	SIN	JOHN	PROPHET

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/834432637208223900/>

# "His Name Is John"

"And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High because you will prepare the way for the Lord." Luke 1:76 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 13-5-18-3-25 \_\_\_\_\_

2. 19-1-12-22-1-20-9-15-14 \_\_\_\_\_

3. 19-5-18-22-5 \_\_\_\_\_

4. 6-15-18-7-9-22-5 \_\_\_\_\_

5. 19-1-22-9-15-18 \_\_\_\_\_

6. 16-18-15-16-8-5-20 \_\_\_\_\_

7. 16-18-1-9-19-5 \_\_\_\_\_

8. 13-9-7-8-20-25 \_\_\_\_\_

PRAISE	SERVE	SALVATION	MIGHTY
PROPHET	SAVIOR	MERCY	FORGIVE

# His Name will be JOHN!

WILL HIS NAME BE ...

