

Bible Story 27: THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:5-25, 57-66, 80

MEMORY VERSES: Proverbs 3:5-6

BIBLE STORY:

The priest Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth were upright before God. They obeyed God's commandments. They were an elderly couple, and they did not have any children.

One day Zechariah was in Jerusalem. It was his turn to go into the Temple and burn incense. The people stayed outside praying.

As Zechariah was burning incense, he saw the angel Gabriel on the right side of the incense altar. Zechariah was afraid.

The angel said, ***"Do not be afraid. God will answer your prayer. Your wife will have a son, and you are to name him John. He will be a great man who will help bring the people back to serve God."***

Zechariah doubted and asked for a sign that this would happen. Because he doubted, the angel told Zechariah that he would not be able to speak until after John was born. When Zechariah came out of the Temple, he could not speak. He used hand gestures to speak to the people.

Zechariah returned to his home, and God fulfilled His promise. Elizabeth gave birth to a son. The people wanted to name her son Zechariah, after his father. Elizabeth said, ***"No! He will be named John."***

Zechariah wrote on a writing tablet, ***"His name will be John."*** Suddenly Zechariah was able to speak and he praised God.

Everyone was amazed!

The child John grew. He became a great servant of God. He preached, calling the people to turn back to serving God and be baptized. He baptized so many people that he became known as **John the Baptist**.

PART 1: PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn from the story?

2. How can you apply this story to your life?

PART 2: GENERIC QUESTIONS

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

PART 3: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. Who were Zechariah and Elizabeth?
2. Who did Zechariah see when he went into the temple to burn incense?
3. What did the angel say?
4. Did Zechariah believe him? What happened?
5. What happened when Zechariah went home?
6. What happened when Elizabeth wanted to name her son John?
7. How does this story show that God is all powerful?
8. How does this story show that God listens to our prayers?
9. What are some prayer requests that you have?
10. John became John the Baptist, a great servant of God. What are some ways you can allow God to use your life?