

The Birth of John the Baptist - Luke 1:5-25 & 57-66



Zachariah and Elizabeth lived in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. Zachariah worked at the temple in Jerusalem; he was a priest. Elizabeth was also from a family of priests and she was also a relative of Mary who became Jesus' mother.

They loved God and wanted to serve him, but they were very, very sad. Elizabeth had not been able to have a baby.



They badly wanted a baby but Elizabeth didn't have one and now Elizabeth was too old!!

One day when Zachariah was burning incense in the temple something amazing happened.



An angel appeared. Zachariah bowed down, he was shocked and scared but the angel said, "do not be afraid Zachariah, God has heard your prayers and your wife Elizabeth is going to have a baby." " He will be a very special baby.



He will not drink any wine or strong drink; he will be filled with God's special Holy spirit. He will bring many people to God. He will prepare the people for the arrival of God's Messiah."

Zachariah said, "that's crazy talk."

"How can we have a baby; we are too old!"



"Zachariah," said the angel, "is anything too hard for God?" "I am Gabriel, head of the Lord's armies, come to speak to you. Because you have not believed, you will not be able to speak, you will be silent until the baby is born."



Elizabeth was very shocked when Zachariah came home. He couldn't speak. She thought, 'something amazing must have happened.'

And it did, Elizabeth became pregnant and gave birth to a baby boy. At the Baby's dedication people asked, "will he be called Zachariah?"



Zachariah called for a stone tablet and he wrote on it 'HIS NAME IS JOHN.' Straight away he got his voice back!

Baby John became **John The Baptist!**

As a grown up, he stood by the Jordan River and Baptised people. He encouraged people to make friends with God and prepared the way for JESUS! Who is God's Messiah!

Everyone who heard about these things wondered about them. They thought, "What will this child be?" They could see that the Lord was with him. **Luke 1:66**

Everybody could see that John would grow up into somebody special. He had a special role, helping people to get right with God, preparing the way for Jesus who is God's Messiah - Jesus who will save us all - paying the price for the bad things we do by dying on the cross.

Dear Lord,

Thank you for John the Baptist, thank you that he prepared the way for Jesus. In this Advent season please prepare our hearts for you. Help us to be ready to welcome you, Jesus, into our hearts.

Amen

Click on these links

[The birth of John the Baptist read by Heather](#)

[Story of John the Baptist told by children](#)



Jesus was baptised by John

Hidden Pictures: The Birth of John the Baptist

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: book, cake, fish, football, magnet, moon, needle and thread, snail, sock, spoon, sheriff's badge, star.



Word Search for The Birth of John the Baptist

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



ANGEL	BIRTH	GABRIEL	NAME	SON
BAPTIST	ELIZABETH	JOHN	SILENT	ZECHARIAH