Nov 30, 2025 - John the Baptist

Luke 1, Matthew 3

Story:

★ **Introduction & Story**:

Our lessons up to now have been about the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, everything pointed to the world's need of a Savior; someone to take away the sins of the world. Adam and Eve were given a wonderful garden to live in, but they disobeyed God and had to leave the garden. After that, our stories often told of sin and problems. Jacob was tricked into marrying the wrong woman. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. The pharaoh in Egypt treated the Israelites badly. The Israelites grumbled and disobeyed on the way to the Promised Land. The Israelites often worshipped idols. Jonah disobeyed God and ended up in the belly of a fish! The Jews were taken into captivity and had to go to Babylon. The wall in Jerusalem had fallen down and Nehemiah had to go rebuild it.

But today we are going to start talking about Jesus! Finally, the Savior of the world was coming.

There had been many people that told about Jesus' coming. All through the Old Testament, prophets told the people that he would come.

The prophet Micah predicted where he would be born. Micah 5:2 said it would be Bethlehem. And this was 700 years before it happened!

The prophet Isaiah told us in Isaiah 40:3-4, that there would be someone coming just before Jesus to prepare the way for Jesus. That is what we are going to talk about today.

There was a man named Zechariah. He was a priest in Israel. Both he and his wife Elizabeth loved and served the Lord. They had prayed for children for many years, but no children came. Now they were old and childless, but they worshipped God faithfully.

One day when Zechariah went into the Holy Place to burn incense on the golden altar, he saw an angel standing by the altar. Zechariah was terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will have a son, and you will name him John." The angel continued to tell him about who John would be. The angel said that John would turn many hearts toward the Savior. John would prepare the people for the coming Savior.

Zechariah was unable to believe the angel. The angel told him that he would not be able to speak until John was born, because he did not believe what God had sent the angel to tell him. So, Zechariah could not talk for many months.

After John was born, the people around them thought that he would be named after his father. But Elizabeth told them that he would be called John. The people turned to Zechariah, and he wrote on a tablet, "His name is John." Immediately Zechariah could speak and he began praising God! All the people wondered what this child would become. Surely God had a plan for him.

John grew up and did just what the angel said he would do. He preached in Judea saying, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near."

John wore a coat of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. The people from Jerusalem, Judea and all the area around the Jordan River were going out to him. They were confessing their sins and being baptized in the Jordan River. He told the people that one was coming that was more powerful than him. He meant Jesus. He told them that Jesus would baptize them with the Holy Spirit.

★ **Connection to God's Overall Story/Plan**: God had asked the Old Testament Israelites to sacrifice animals so that He would forgive them of their sins/disobedience. But it didn't really help them stop sinning. So God had been planning on a better sacrifice – a Savior that would pay the price of sin AND help the people stop sinning. John would remind the people that God was sending the Savior. It had been quite a few years since they were reminded through the prophets.

Follow Up:

★ **Retell**: Have kids share what they recall from the story. Fill in any major holes they missed.

Questions:

1. Did you know there were hundreds of prophecies about Jesus? Most of them were several hundred years before he came.
2. John the Baptist must have looked kind of strange in his funny clothes. He was preaching a message that would have been kind of strange to the people that were hearing it. Why do you think the people were drawn to him? (Maybe God led them to him. They knew the prophecies and were probably really hoping the Savior was about to come.)

3. Did you know that John the Baptist and Jesus were relatives? John's mother Elizabeth and Jesus' mother Mary were cousins. We'll talk more about that next week.

★ **Examine**:
    - Ask, "What do we learn about God from this story? What does He do?"
        - He doesn't forget us. He keeps His promise. He has a big plan that took many years to deliver.
    - Ask, "What do we learn about humans from this story? What are humans doing?"
        - We can tell others about God.

★ **Application**: Ask, "What is Jesus asking us to do through this story? Why did God include this in the Bible?"
    - To tell others about God.

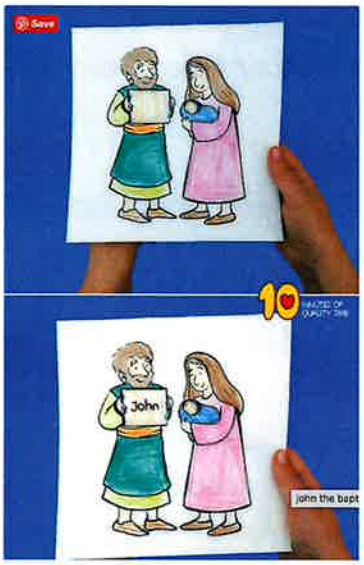
★ **Prayer**

Memory Verse Practice:

★ **Verse**: John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

Sticky Activities:

★ Activity pages
★ Coloring pages
★ Crafts:
    - Have kids glue pasta or yarn to the coloring page to make the clothes look like camel hair

- Directions @ QR link 

★ Movement activities:
  - [March and shout](): Use a decorated paper tube to march and shout "Jesus is coming!" into it, mimicking John the Baptist's role of preparing the way.

🏞️ "Prepare the Way" Obstacle Course

Theme: John prepared the way for Jesus.
Setup:

- Create a path using cones, pool noodles, boxes, or chairs.

- Add actions along the way: jumping over "rocks," walking on a "bridge," crawling under a "tree."
  Directions:
  Kids travel the path "clearing the way" — moving obstacles aside or fixing the path as they go.
  Talk about: "John helped people get ready for Jesus by telling them to turn away from sin and follow God."

🗣️ Shout It Out!

Theme: John boldly told others to "Repent!"
Directions:

- Have kids stand in a circle.
- One child calls out a message like "Repent!" or "Follow God!" while doing a fun action (e.g., jumping jacks).
- The rest echo both the *words* and *action.*
  Variation: Turn it into a call-and-response game: leader shouts, kids echo.

Send Home Page: See attached

Today's lesson was on
John the Baptist / Luke 1, Matthew 3

Memory Verse:

- He must increase, but I must decrease. John 3:30

*Kids that recite the memory verse
to the teacher next week earn a prize ☺

Today's lesson was on
John the Baptist / Luke 1, Matthew 3

Memory Verse:

- He must increase, but I must decrease. John 3:30

*Kids that recite the memory verse
to the teacher next week earn a prize ☺

Today's lesson was on
John the Baptist / Luke 1, Matthew 3

Memory Verse:

- He must increase, but I must decrease. John 3:30

*Kids that recite the memory verse
to the teacher next week earn a prize ☺

Today's lesson was on
John the Baptist / Luke 1, Matthew 3

Memory Verse:

- He must increase, but I must decrease. John 3:30

*Kids that recite the memory verse
to the teacher next week earn a prize ☺

On to the New Testament

Today marks the first lesson in the New Testament, which means there is a new books of the Bible song for the kids! This song can help them truly memorize the entire list of books in the NT.

Link to New Testament Books Song

On to the New Testament

Today marks the first lesson in the New Testament, which means there is a new books of the Bible song for the kids! This song, while slow, can help them truly memorize the entire list of books in the NT.

Link to New Testament Books Song

On to the New Testament

Today marks the first lesson in the New Testament, which means there is a new books of the Bible song for the kids! This song, while slow, can help them truly memorize the entire list of books in the NT.

Link to New Testament Books Song

On to the New Testament

Today marks the first lesson in the New Testament, which means there is a new books of the Bible song for the kids! This song, while slow, can help them truly memorize the entire list of books in the NT.

Link to New Testament Books Song

Memory Verse:

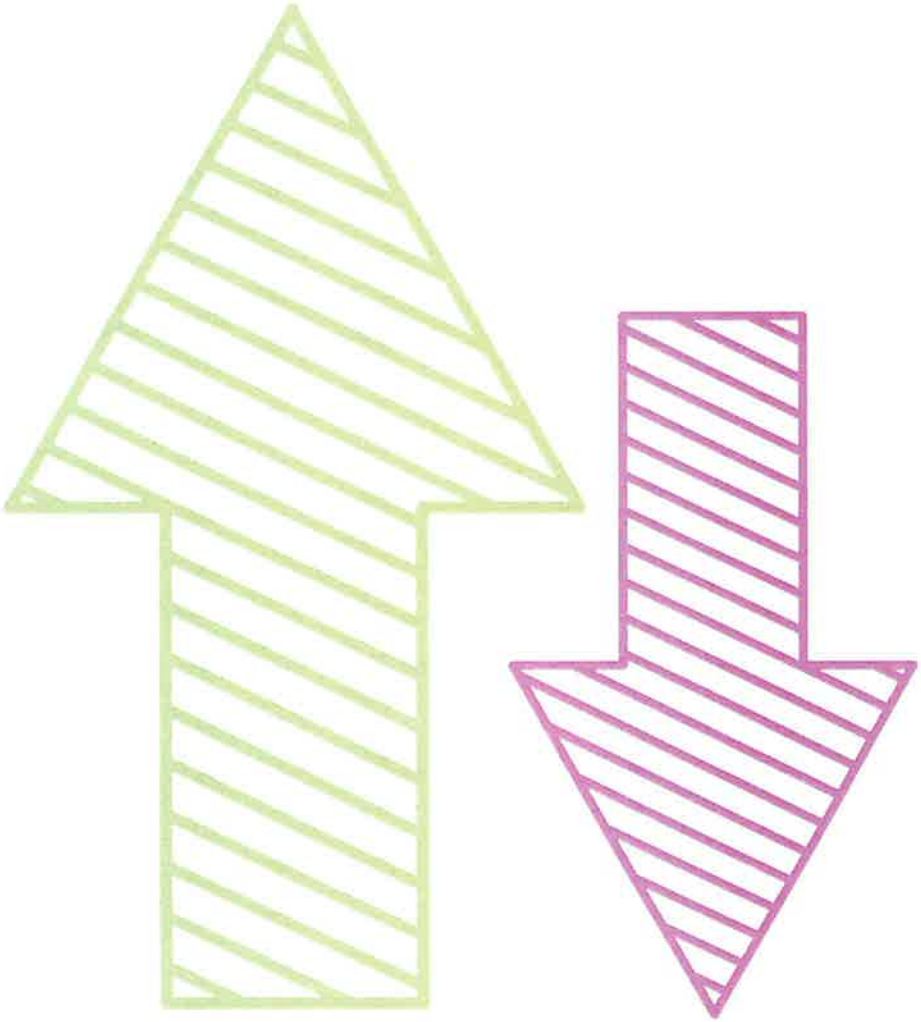
He must increase,
but I must decrease.
John 3:30

Fill in the Blanks

__ must __crease,

but _ must __crease.

John 3:30

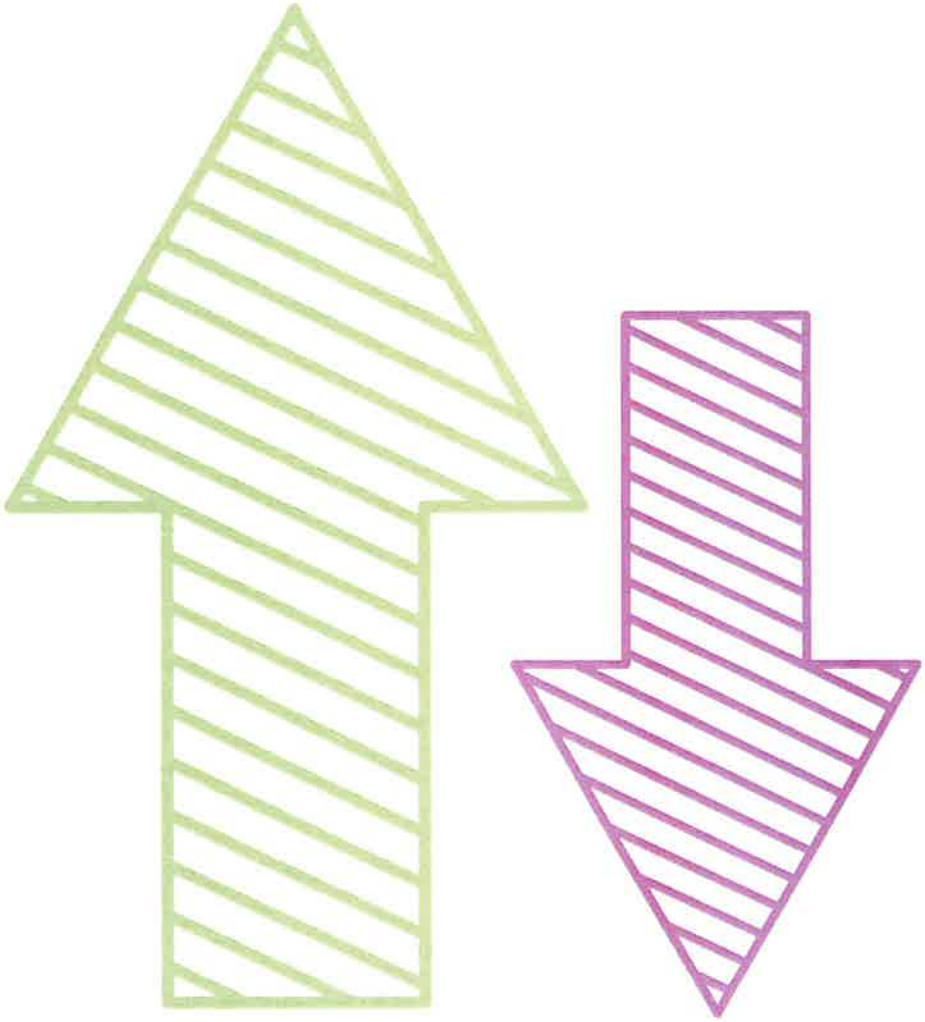


Fill in the Blanks

__ must __crease,

but _ must __crease.

John 3:30



Matthew 3:1–12; Mark 1:1–8; Luke 3:1–20

John the Baptist Preaches about the Coming Savior

© David C Cook. Permission granted to photocopy for ministry purposes only.

John the Baptist Preaches about the Coming Savior

Matthew 3:1–12; Mark 1:1–8; Luke 3:1–20

Many people went to the desert. It was hot. People walked a long way. They went to see a preacher: John the Baptist. John the Baptist wore clothes made out of camel's hair. His clothes must have been very itchy!

John the Baptist ate locusts and wild honey. He didn't have good food like we do. John the Baptist didn't care about nice clothes or good-tasting food. John the Baptist cared about telling the people that the Savior of the world was coming.

John told the people to stop doing wrong things and start doing good things. John said, "Share your food with people who don't have any. Don't cheat people or steal from them anymore. Be happy with what you have." John said people needed to be ready because Jesus was coming soon.

© David C Cook. Permission granted to photocopy for ministry purposes only.

Zechariah did not understand how he could have a son because of his old age. Because of his unbelief, he was struck silent until John's birth.

Draw a mouth on Zechariah. Trace his clothes.

© 2025 CRI • PO Box 9290, Canton, OH 44711 • www.ChildrensBulletins.com

Children's Worship Bulletin™

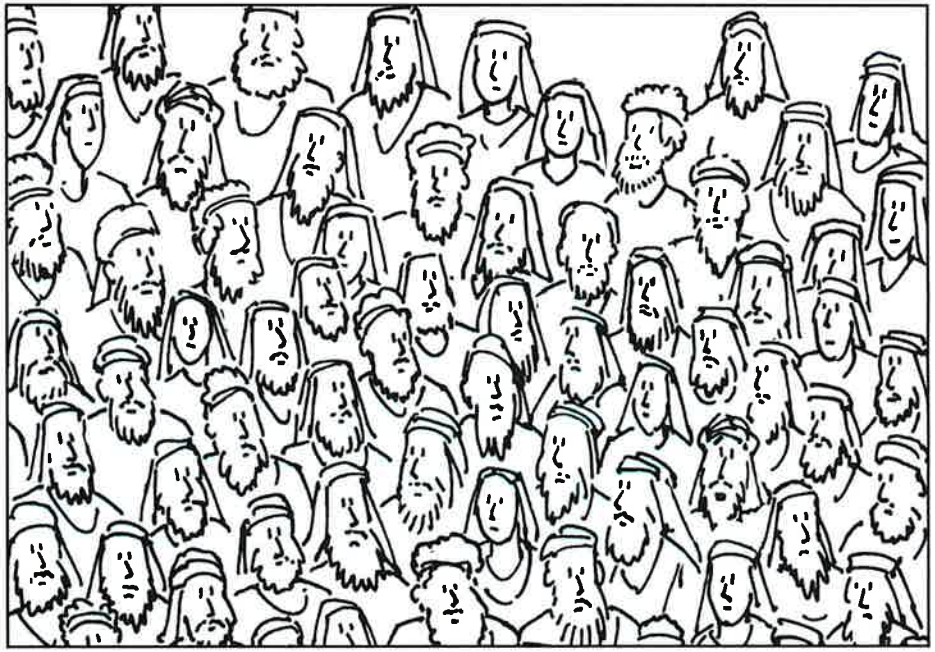
Ages 3+

October 26, 2025 • Luke 1:5-25

Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

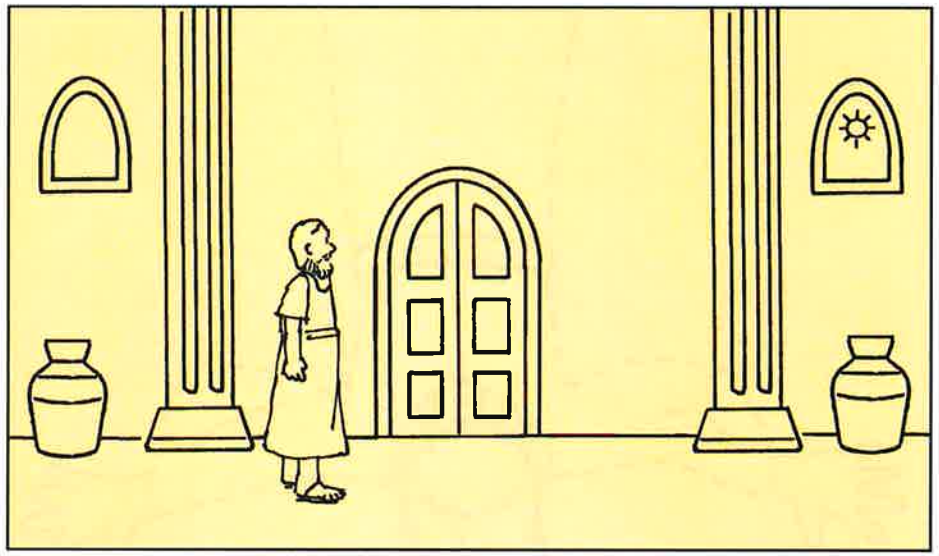
A priest named Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth followed the Lord's commandments. They were old and had no children.

Find Zechariah and Elizabeth.



An angel named Gabriel appeared to Zechariah. He told him his wife Elizabeth would have a son. His name would be John.

Circle 5 differences in the 2nd picture.



Gabriel said, "John will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth."

Trace the letters.

John

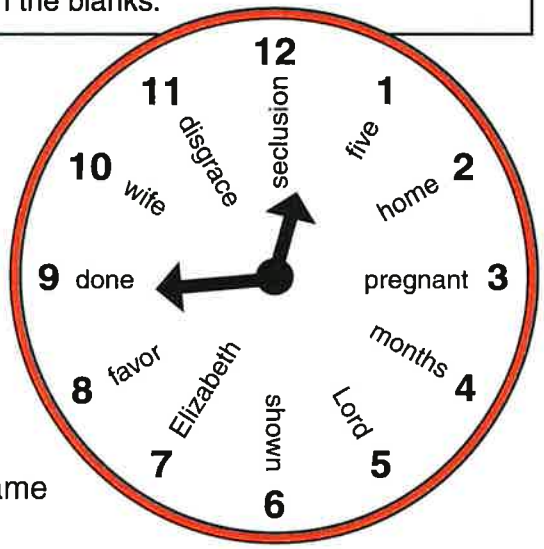
joy

delight

rejoice

What happened after that?

Use this clock code to fill in the blanks.



When Zechariah's time

of service was completed,

he returned _____.

After this his _____

_____ became

_____ and for _____ _____ remained

in _____. "The _____ has _____ this for

me," she said. "In these days He has

_____ His _____ and taken away

my _____ among the people."

© 2025 CRI • PO Box 9290, Canton, OH 44711 • www.ChildrensBulletins.com

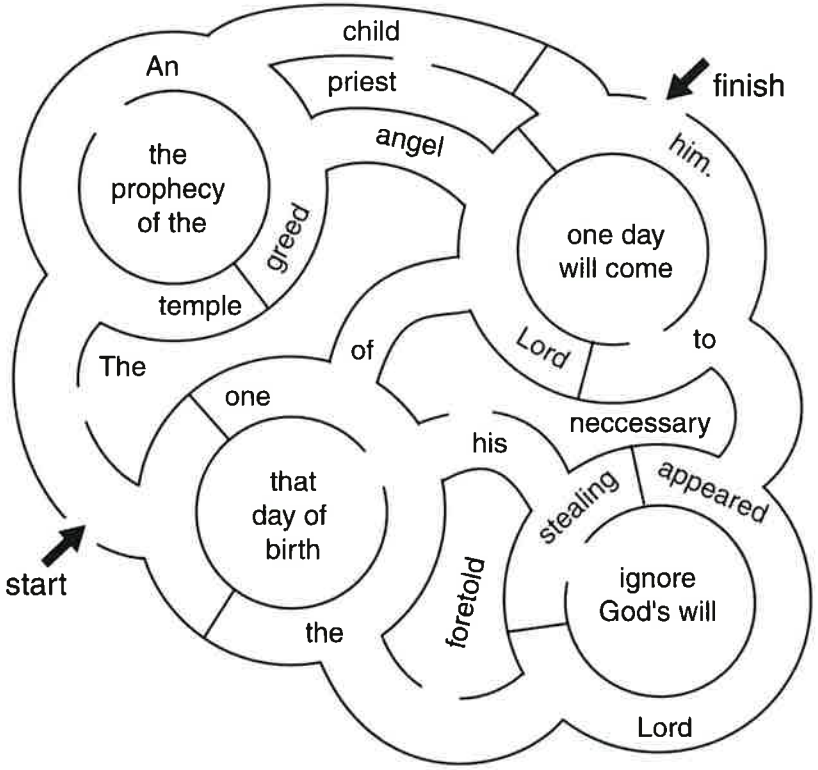
Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+ **October 26, 2025 • Luke 1:5-25**

Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

The priest Zechariah was chosen to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. What happened when he did this?

Follow the maze thrugh the cloud of incense smoke to find out what happened while Zechariah was in the temple.



What did the angel of the Lord say to Zechariah?

Remove all the "X"s, "Q"s, and "V"s from the passage, and then write the remaining letters on the lines below to find out.

o x u v r w i q f v e E I x i z v a b q
e t x h w i x I v I b e q a v r y o x u
a v s q o n a n v d y x o u a v r q e t
x o c v a I q I h x i m J v o h n H x e
w i q I v I b r x i n g b a v c k m v a
x n y o v f t h x e p v e q o p I e o v
f I x s r v a q e I t o t h x e L v o q
r d t v h e x i r G q o d A v n x d h e
w i x I I g v o o q n b x e f o v r x e
t h q e L x o r v d t o m v a q k e x r
e q a v d y a p x e o v p I q e p r v e
p x a r e d f o q r t x h e L q o r x d

The angel said: "Y___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___, ___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___ ___. ... ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ...

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___."

What happened when Zechariah doubted the angel's promise?

Fill in the missing vowels in the order given to complete the passage below.

a o o u i e i e a o e a e o e a u i e a i a e e
a u e o u i o e i e e o i i o e u e a e i o e i e

The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel, I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.

___nd n___w y___ ___ w___ll b___

s___l___nt ___nd n___t b___ ___bl___

t___ sp___ ___k ___nt___l th___ d___y

th___s h___pp___ns, b___c___ ___s___

y___ ___ d___d n___t b___l___ ___v___

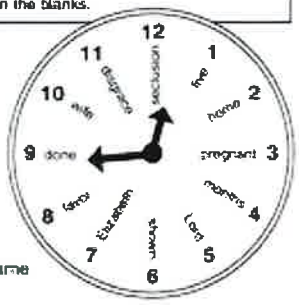
my w___rds, wh___ch w___ll

c___m___ tr___ ___ ___t th___ ___r

pr___p___r t___m___."

What happened after that?

Use this clock code to fill in the blanks.



When Zechariah's time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days He has shown His favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

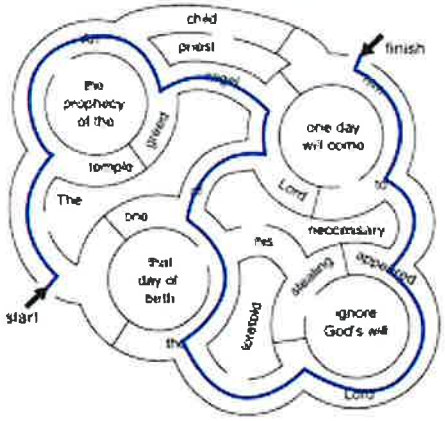
Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+ October 26, 2025 • Luke 1:5-25

Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

The priest Zechariah was chosen to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. What happened when he did this?

Follow the maze through the cloud of incense smoke to find out what happened while Zechariah was in the temple.



What did the angel of the Lord say to Zechariah?

Remove all the "X"s, "O"s, and "V"s from the passage, and then write the remaining letters on the lines below to find out.

o x u x r w i x f x e E l x i z x a b x
e l x h w i x l x l b e x a x r y o x u
a x s x o n a n x d y x o u a x r x e t
x o c x a l x l h x i m J x o h n H x e
w i x l x l b r x i n g b a x c k m x a
x n y o x f t h x e p x e x o p l e o x
f l x s r x a x e l t o t h x e L x o x
r d t x h e x i r G x o d A x n x d h e
w i x l l g x o o x n b x e f o x r x e
t h x e L x o r x d t o m x a x k e x r
e x a x d y a p x e o x p l x e p r x e
p x a r e d f o x r t x h e L x o r x d

The angel said: "Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ... He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord ... to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

What happened when Zechariah doubted the angel's promise?

Fill in the missing vowels in the order given to complete the passage below.

a o o u i e i e a o e a e o e a u i e a i a e e
a u e o u i o e i e e o i i o e u e a e i o e i e

The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel, I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.

And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time."

CHILDREN'S BIBLE ACTIVITY SHEETS

BIRTH OF JOHN FORETOLD

LUKE 1:5-25

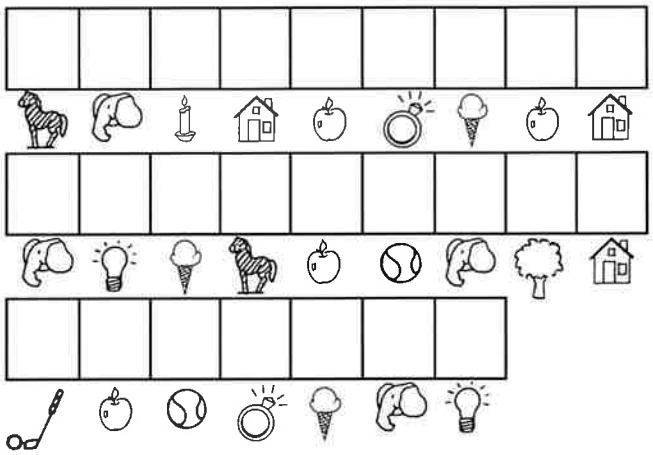
Who are we?

I am a priest, a descendant of Aaron. I am well along in years. I went to the temple to pray and burn incense.

I am the wife of the priest. I am also well along in years. I have no children. I have been careful to obey the Lord always.

I am an angel of the Lord. I appeared to the priest when he went into the temple to pray. I gave him some good news.

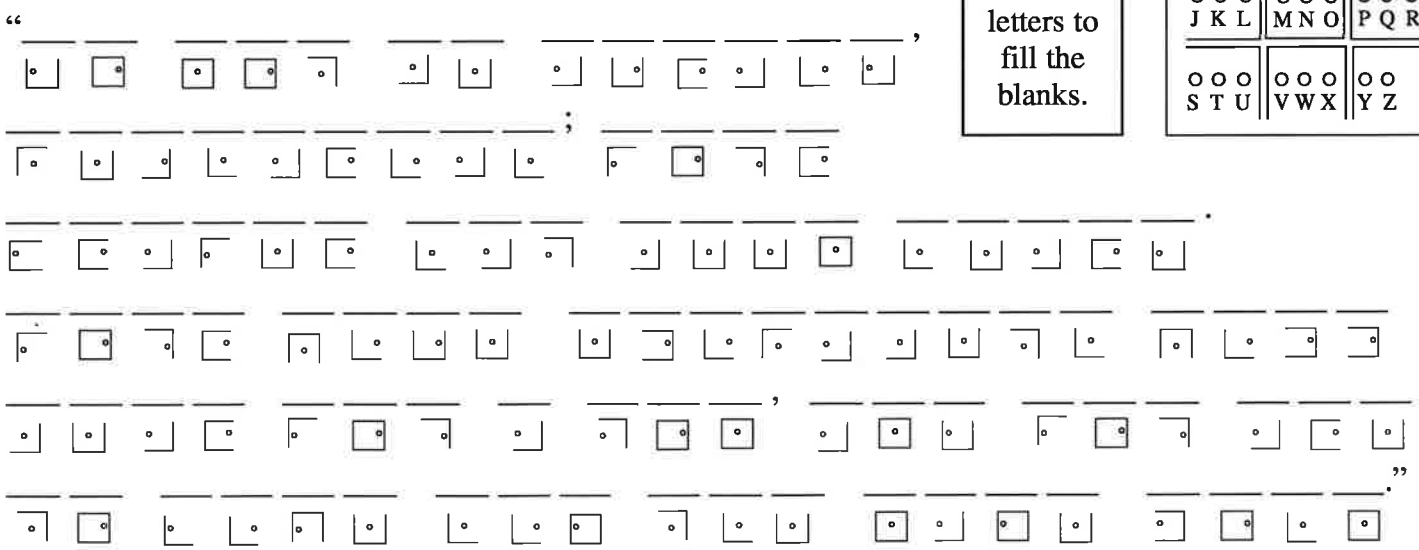
Write the first letter of each picture in the boxes.



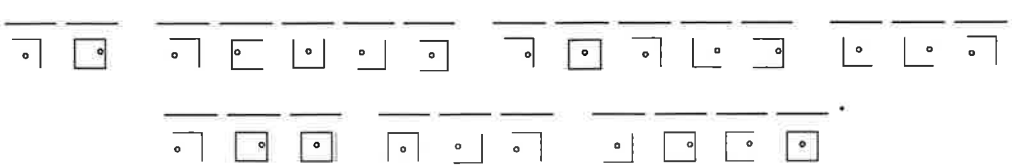
What did the angel say in the temple?

Use the code to find the letters to fill the blanks.

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



Zechariah doubted what the angel told him. And so he _____



Name _____

© 2000 CRI • P.O. Box 36269 • Canton, Ohio 44735 • 1-800-992-2144 • www.BibleActivities.com

BIRTH OF JOHN FORETOLD

New Testament Lesson #1

Shortly before Jesus was born, there lived an older couple named Zechariah (zek-a-RI-a) and Elizabeth. They were both descendants of Aaron (Moses' brother) and obeyed the Lord. The couple was childless.

Zechariah was a priest, and when it was his turn to enter the Lord's temple to burn incense and offer a prayer on behalf of the people, the people assembled outside the temple to pray.

Inside, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Zechariah. Zechariah was very frightened, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth." The angel told Zechariah that his son would prepare the people to hear the Lord when he came.

This prophecy seemed too good to be true, considering that he and his wife were old. Zechariah asked the angel how he could know for sure.

The angel responded, "I am Gabriel (GAY-bri-el). I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news." Then the angel said that since Zechariah hadn't believed what the angel said, he would be unable to speak until all the things the angel had told him had come to pass.

When Zechariah went out of the temple, he couldn't speak. The people realized he had seen a vision. After he and Elizabeth returned home, she became pregnant, just as Gabriel had promised. She remained in seclusion for five months and gave glory to God for allowing this happy thing to occur.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- This angel was probably the same Gabriel who had appeared to Daniel in Babylon many years earlier. See Daniel 8:16 and 9:21. Gabriel had told Daniel of the coming of the Messiah and now was telling Zechariah that his son would be the one to announce that the Messiah had come!
- In verse 5, it says that Zechariah belonged to the priestly division of Abijah (a-BI-ja). Abijah was chief of one of the 24 divisions of the priesthood. See 1 Chronicles 24:10.
- Incense was to be burned on the altar of incense in the morning and the evening. This corresponded to the designated times for prayer by the people, which is why they were gathered outside praying at this time.
- Part of Zechariah's shock at seeing the angel was that no one was to be in the temple with him.
- The name Zechariah means "God has remembered," Elizabeth means "the oath of God" and John means "Grace."

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

I. Zechariah and Elizabeth were married and had no children.
   A. When Zechariah was in the Lord's temple, an angel spoke to him.
   B. The angel said Elizabeth would bear a son.
   C. Zechariah had trouble believing the angel, and because of his doubt, was told he would be unable to speak until the baby was born.

II. Zechariah left the temple and returned home.
   A. He was unable to speak.
   B. Gabriel's promise came true: Elizabeth became pregnant.
   C. Elizabeth praised God for this happy event.

ANSWER KEY:

Zechariah, Elizabeth, Gabriel

"Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John."
was unable to speak until his son was born.

© 2000 CRI • P.O. Box 36269 • Canton, Ohio 44735 • 1-800-992-2144 • www.BibleActivities.com

BIRTH OF JOHN FORETOLD

LUKE 1:5-25

The angel Gabriel appeared in the temple to give Zechariah an important message.

Connect the dots.

Name _____

New Testament Lesson #1

© 2000 CRI • P.O. Box 36269 • Canton, Ohio 44735 • 1-800-992-2144 • www.BibleActivities.com

Spot the Differences in The Birth of John the Baptist

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 11 things that are different.

Copyright © 2016 SundaySchoolZone.com

All Rights Reserved. Free to duplicate for church or home use. Visit http://SundaySchoolZone.com.

John the Baptist Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

SIBATPM

NYOEH

HOJN

DANOJR

STLUCO

RSMENSEEG

MSSAEHI

NERTPE

RIRVE

NSIS

RAWTE

WESISLDNER

John told the poeple this:

Copyright © 2013 SundaySchoolZone.com. All Rights Reserved. Free to duplicate for church or home use. Visit http://SundaySchoolZone.com.

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.

S	I	S	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H
I	N	B	A	P	T	I	S	T	R	I	T
L	O	R	E	C	T	E	M	D	I	T	O
E	U	L	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H
N	O	G	S	E	J	U	I	L	L	A	N
T	R	A	V	E	L	O	I	R	I	U	R
L	A	B	R	E	O	R	H	I	T	E	R
B	I	R	T	H	R	E	T	N	T	V	E
I	T	I	O	L	I	A	N	G	E	L	D
T	I	E	N	S	E	G	I	A	M	V	E
L	A	L	Q	U	O	N	S	E	M	T	E
T	U	E	D	R	E	N	E	L	I	E	U

ANGEL	BIRTH	GABRIEL	NAME	SON
BAPTIST	ELIZABETH	JOHN	SILENT	ZECHARIAH

Copyright © 2016 SundaySchoolZone.com. All Rights Reserved. Free to duplicate for church or home use. Visit http://SundaySchoolZone.com

John the Baptist Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

SIBATPM	B A P T I S M
NYOEH	H O N E Y
HOJN	J O H N
DANOJR	J O R D A N
STLUCO	L O C U S T
RSMENSEEG	M E S S E N G E R
MSSAEHI	M E S S I A H
NERTPE	R E P E N T
RIRVE	R I V E R
NSIS	S I N S
RAWTE	W A T E R
WESISLDNER	W I L D E R N E S S

John told the poeple this:

J E S U S I S C O M I N G

Copyright © 2013 SundaySchoolZone.com All Rights Reserved Free to duplicate for church or home use Visit http://SundaySchoolZone.com

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.

S	I	S	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H
I	N	B	A	P	T	I	S	T	R	I	T
L	O	R	E	C	T	E	M	D	I	T	O
E	U	L	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H
N	O	G	S	E	J	U	I	L	L	A	N
T	R	A	V	E	L	O	I	R	I	U	R
L	A	B	R	E	O	R	H	I	T	E	R
B	I	R	T	H	R	E	T	N	T	V	E
I	T	I	O	L	I	A	N	G	E	L	D
T	I	E	N	S	E	G	I	A	M	V	E
L	A	L	Q	U	O	N	S	E	M	T	E
T	U	E	D	R	E	N	E	L	I	E	U

ANGEL	BIRTH	GABRIEL	NAME	SON
BAPTIST	ELIZABETH	JOHN	SILENT	ZECHARIAH

Copyright © 2016 SundaySchoolZone.com All Rights Reserved. Free to duplicate for church or home use Visit http://SundaySchoolZone.com

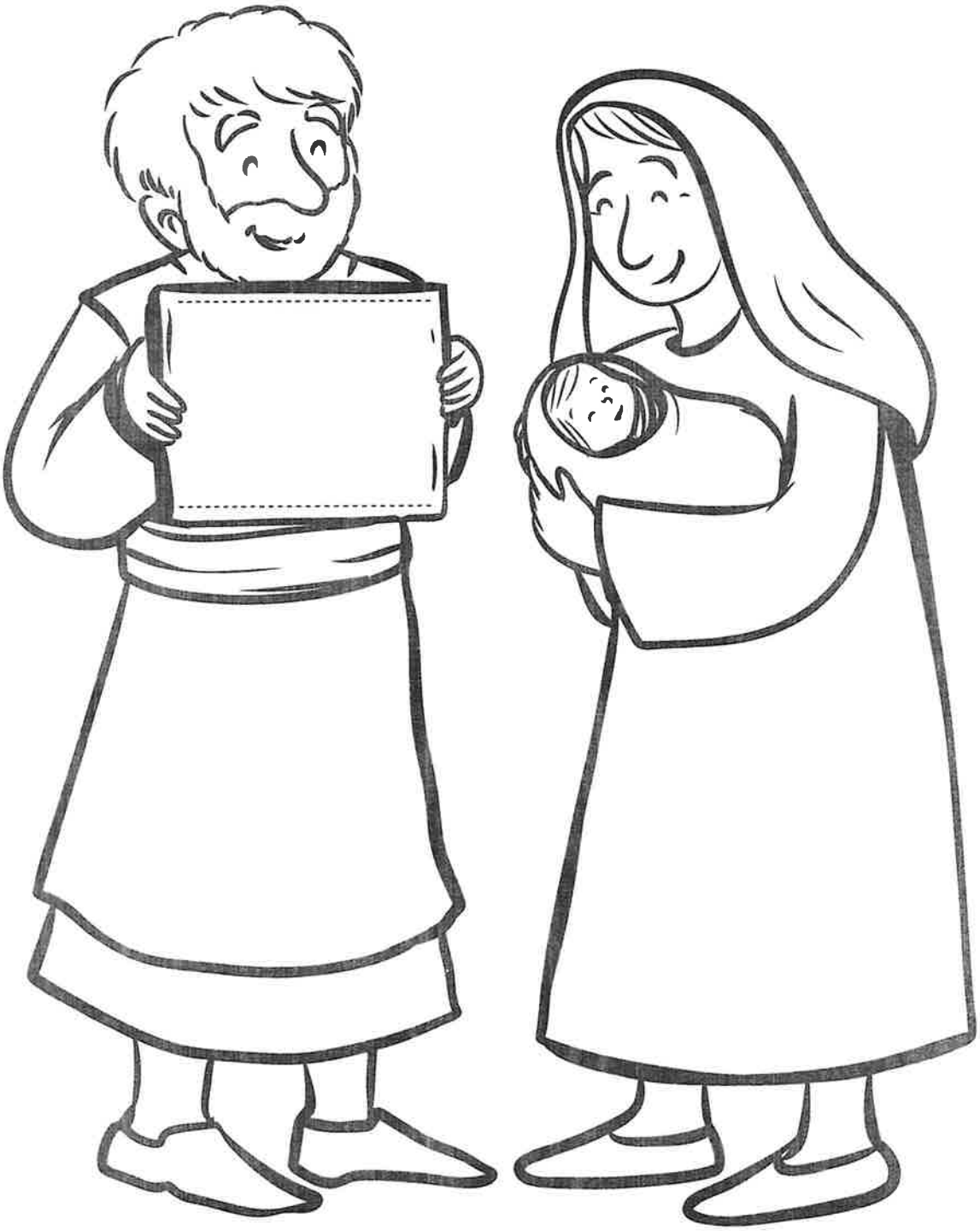
Spot the Differences in The Birth of John the Baptist

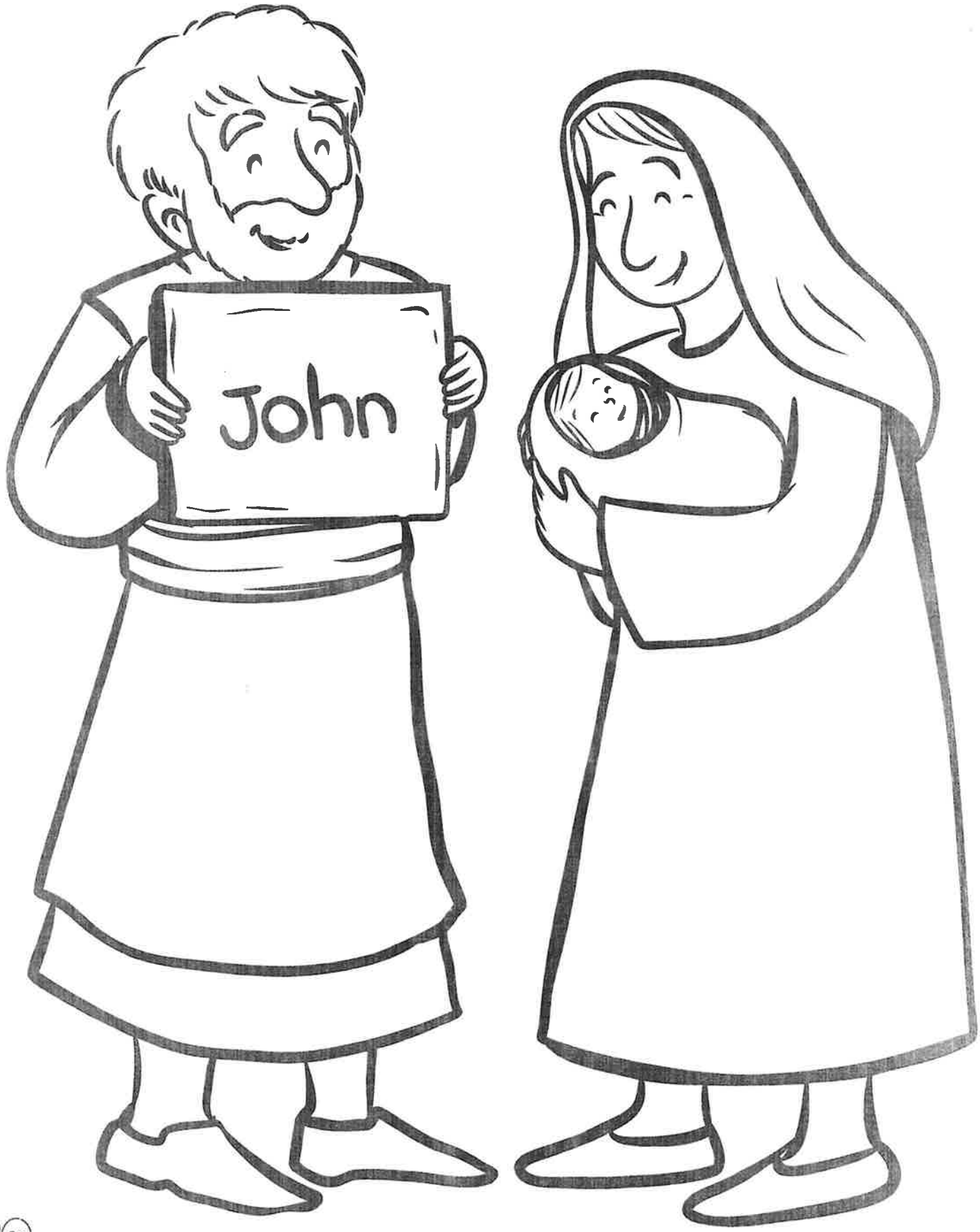
Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 11 things that are different.

Copyright © 2016 SundaySchoolZone.com All Rights Reserved Free to duplicate for church or home use Visit http://SundaySchoolZone.com

Copyright ©Sermons4Kids | All Rights Reserved | www.sermons4kids.com

John




John