



A Message for Zechariah

Family Worship At Home . Year D . Advent Lesson 1 . Luke 1

BIG IDEA: Zechariah prophesies that his son John will prepare the way for the Messiah King; the one the whole world had been waiting for.

PREPARATION: This Sunday marks the beginning of our journey through the narrative of Jesus' earthly ministry. After spending the last couple of months hearing about God's promises to his people, we now begin the story of God fulfilling these promises by sending his Son, the Rescuer, the Serpent Crusher, the Forever King who will bless the whole world.

We begin with Zechariah and Elizabeth. We hear that Zechariah is one of God's people, righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statues of the Lord. But even with all that in their favour, the Lord has not granted them a child. Zechariah is, in fact, a priest, and while going about his usual priestly duties an angel appears to him. The angel brings a message. A promise of an answered prayer, the birth of a son. God has heard, and answered this specific request of Zechariah and Elizabeth, and in his answer to that prayer God begins the cycle of events that answer THE prayer of His people.

And what is Zechariah's response to this amazing message? Doubt. Even from Zechariah, the priest who is righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all his commandments. We see immediately the need for this child "to turn many children of Israel to the Lord their God" and "to make ready for the Lord a people prepared," and ultimately the great need for the one who will follow after, the rescuer and redeemer of the whole world. But in the face of Zechariah's doubt God continues to show his faithfulness and ability to work in spite of his people. Elizabeth conceives and his son John is born, the last of the prophets who prepares a way for the Messiah. Isaiah 40:3 (NIRV) "***A messenger is calling out, "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD. Make a straight road through it for our God."***"

READ: Luke 1

Spend some time thinking about all the ways we have seen God remain with his people, faithful in spite of their unfaithfulness. How does this shape our response to God? How does it ground our trust in him? What areas of your life are full of doubt and questioning? Give them to God, asking him to show you the certainty of his care and provision.

PRAY: As we enter this season of Advent, ask God to know and receive the hope, peace, love, and joy of Christ in a new way this Advent and Christmas season.

OPENING FAMILY WORSHIP

GREETING

We open our worship by greeting one another and remembering God's presence in our midst.

The Lord be with you; **And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts; **We lift them up to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God; **It is right to give him thanks and praise**

ADVENT LITANY

Each week in Advent we will focus on a different aspect of the good news of God's coming in Jesus birth (hope, peace, joy, love) . If you have an advent wreath or candles at home, you can use them alongside these responsive litanies. If not, you can make an advent poster board, or use the litanies in the place of our usual Catechism Q's.

SAY: Today is the first Sunday of Advent and we light the candle of hope. Who is our hope in?

Our hope is in God, and in his Son Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the one through whom God promised to save and redeem his people.

We thank you God for the hope you give us.

SING

Come Light Our Hearts – Rain for Roots (<https://youtu.be/l4c9AP88YQE>)

Soon and Very Soon – traditional [GBS recording](#)

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus –Rain for Roots (<https://youtu.be/7GMYo2pqAv0>)

MEMORY VERSE

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people,
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke from the mouth of his holy prophets from of old. (Luke 1:68-70)

SING: Zechariah's Prophecy Slugs and Bugs Sing the Bible Family Christmas Album Song 09

<https://slugsandbugs.com/products/sing-the-bible-family-christmas>

CATECHISM QUESTION ___ *Today we add the last phrases to our second question.*

Q: What is the Bible? A: **The Bible is God's Word written.**

Q: What is the Old Testament? A: **God's Creation of all things; Mankind's original disobedience; God's calling of his people, His Law, His wisdom, His saving deeds and the teaching of His prophets. The Old Testament points to Christ.**

BIBLE PLAY VIDEO

A Message for Zechariah Bible Play Video: <https://vimeo.com/477823388>

REFLECT AND DISCUSS

These questions are meant to facilitate engagement and conversation with your kids. Use as many or few of them as seem appropriate on a particular day! There are questions geared towards younger kids (Age 3-Gr.2) and older kids (Gr. 3-6) but feel free to use them however they best suit your family.

Younger Kids (Age 3–Gr.2)

- I wonder, have you heard this story before?
- I wonder, why didn't Zechariah believe the angel?
- I wonder, what was the baby's name?
- I wonder, who gave the baby this name?
- I wonder, what messages will John bring to God's people when he grows up?

Older Kids (Gr.3-6)

- In the Bible, what is the job of a prophet? (*The prophets are God's messengers!*)
- Do you remember some of the prophets in the Old Testament?
Who is the last prophet before the birth of the Saviour King, Jesus? (*John the Baptist!*)

SAY: We have just heard how an angel came to John's dad, Zechariah, to tell him that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a son named John, who would have a very special job to do.

- Zechariah and Elizabeth had been praying for a child. Why do you think that Zechariah doubted the angel when he said that God was going to answer their prayers?
- The angel told Zechariah that his son would have a special job. What was it?
- What does Zechariah do when is allowed to speak again?
How does Zechariah's song of praise connect the Old and New Testaments?

RESPOND

DRAW your own picture of today's story

COMIC: Make a Comic of today's story – there is a template with words and without them.

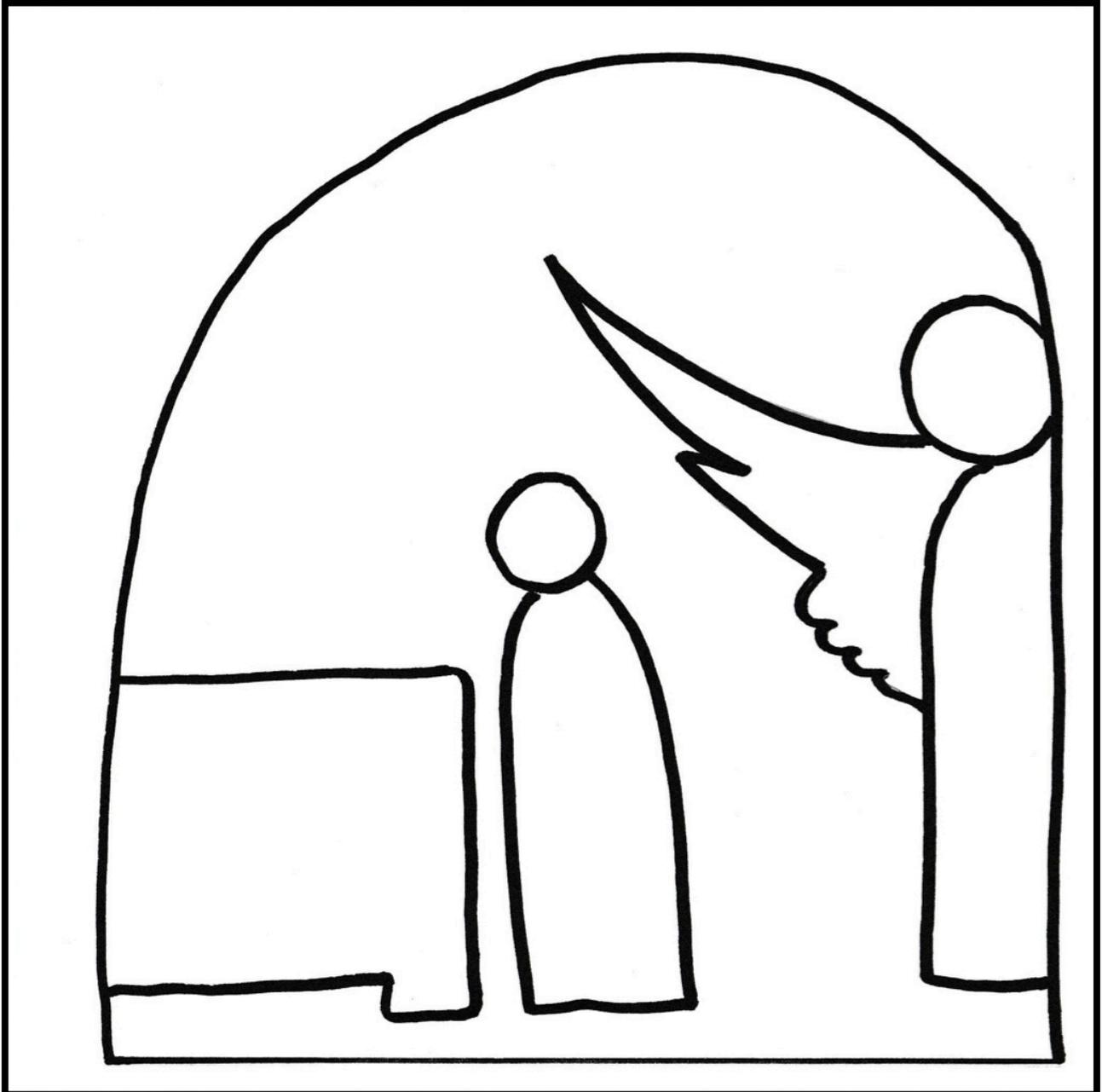
COLOUR: Zechariah colouring page.

LISTEN AND DRAW

- *Zechariah* – Rain for Roots (Kate Bowser) (https://youtu.be/9_5SYG8eaOk)
- *Zechariah's Prophecy* -[Slugs and Bugs Sing the Bible Family Christmas Album](#) Song 09 and other Christmas songs – This is our new memory verse!

EXTRAS: Check out these readings from books and videos.

- *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, Sally Lloyd-Jones, Pages 200-207 (John the Baptist)
- *The Gospel Story Bible*, Marty Machowski, Pages 164-165 (John the Baptist)
- Video: [Come Thou Long Expected Jesus](#) – Marcy Priest (Skit Guys)



An Angel visits Zechariah

Luke 1:1-25

The Story of Zechariah, Elizabeth and their baby John

Zechariah and Elizabeth prayed and prayed for a child.

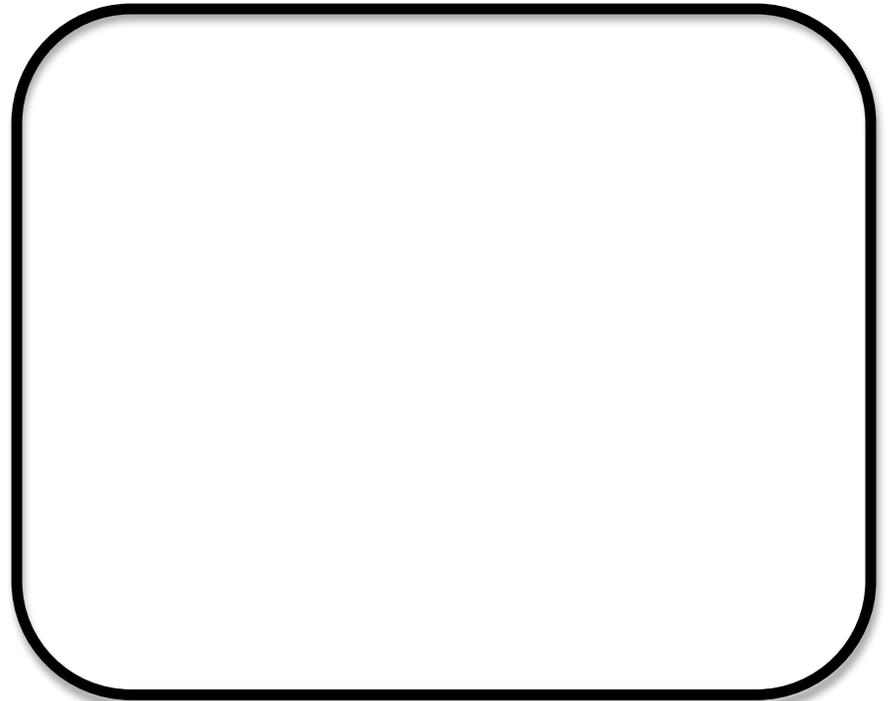
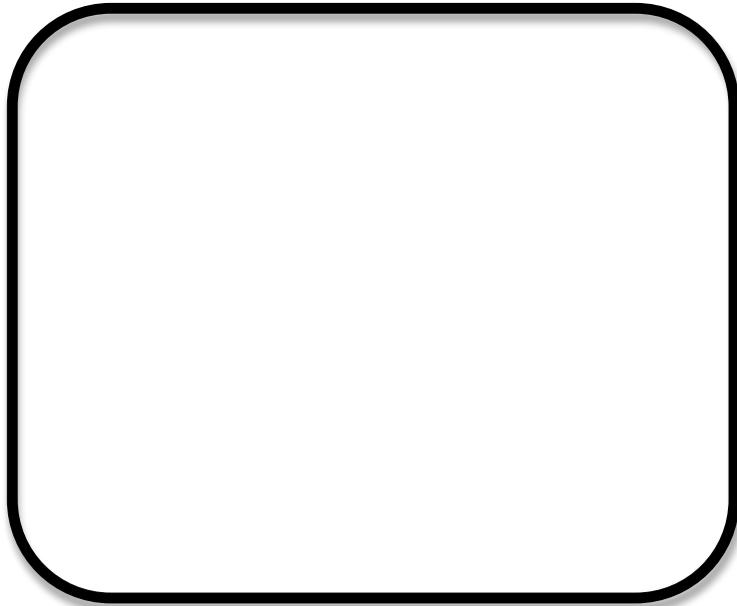
The Angel Gabriel told Zechariah the good news. "God has heard your prayers. You will have a son and name him John. He will get God's people ready for the true King who is coming."

When Elizabeth had a baby boy and everyone wondered what his name would be. Zechariah wrote, "His name is John."

Then Zechariah opened his mouth and spoke...

"Praise be to the God of Israel! He has come to set his people free. He made us a promise to rescue us and NOW he is going to do it! The Savior that we've waited for is finally coming."

The Story of Zechariah, Elizabeth and their baby John



LISTEN to the song **Zechariah** by Rain for Roots

and DRAW a picture to go with each verse in the boxes.

<p>Zechariah went into the temple And an angel of the Lord was waiting there He said, "You've waited your whole life Good news, you and your wife will have a son named John, the Lord has heard your prayer."</p>	
<p>Zechariah was afraid and started talking He said, "How can this be? How will I know?" Gabriel said, "God gave this special task to me, and since you ask, here's a sign for you until he's born to show..."</p>	
<p>And Zechariah said, "... " Then he couldn't say... But his heart went...{cause he couldn't speak} Then he tried to say... But he couldn't say... But his heart went boom, boom, boom!</p>	
<p>Zechariah walked out of the temple And they knew something had happened there inside He tried to tell the story, but it wouldn't come out right Stayed inside his heart, but couldn't be denied</p>	
<p>And Zechariah said "... , ...grrr..." But his heart went...{'cause he couldn't talk anymore} And he tried to say "mmm...ah..." But his heart went pitter-patter, pitter-patter, boom!</p>	
<p>The time came and Jesus had a cousin This baby boy that Gabriel foretold Everyone was glad, they thought they'd name him like his dad but Zechariah knew better and he wrote: "His name is John!"</p>	
<p>And he said, "Blessed be the Lord our God of Israel My son John will get our ears ready to hear That our Father will forgive us; His Son's come to live with us The redeemer that we've waited for is here." The redeemer that we've waited for is here</p>	

Zachariah's Prophecy - Luke 1:68-70



Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David.

As he spoke... (as he spoke),

As he spoke... (as he spoke)

from the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.

Luke 1 verse 68 through 70