

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

### Luke 1

### God Sends John to Prepare Hearts

5 In the **time** of Herod king of Judea there was a **priest** named Zechariah; his **wife** Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. 6 Both of them were upright in the sight of God, and they were both well along in years.

8 Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, 9 he was chosen by lot, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. All the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. 13 But the angel **said** to him: "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. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his **birth**, 15 for he will be great in the **sight** of the Lord. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the **spirit** and power of Elijah, to turn the **hearts** of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

18 Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well **along** in years."

19 The angel answered, "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. 20 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."

W	I	F	E	T	I	M	E
P	R	I	E	S	T	H	S
H	E	A	R	T	S	E	P
B	I	R	T	H	A	A	I
S	P	E	A	K	I	R	R
A	L	O	N	G	D	D	I
D	A	Y	S	I	G	H	T

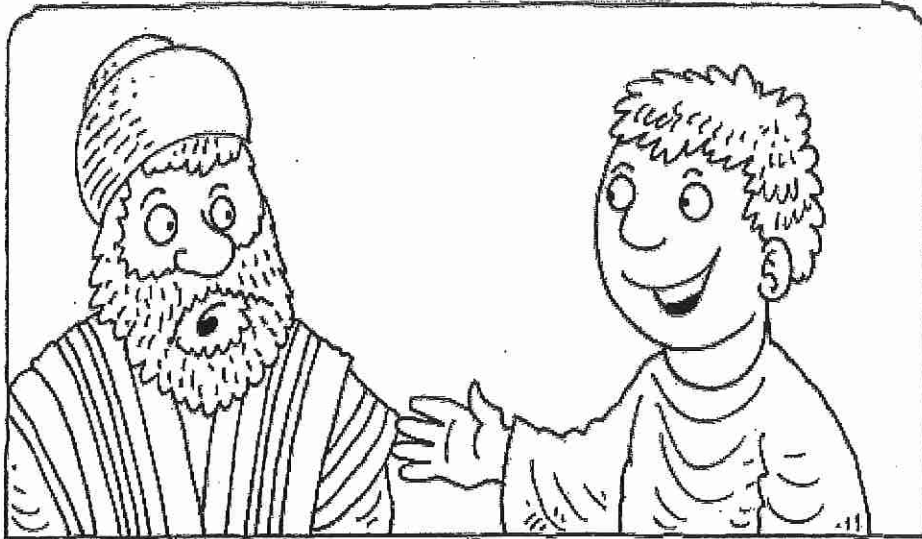
God said that John was sent by Him in order to prepare hearts for the coming Savior. John's ministry was to declare that God was coming to dwell among His people. We remember the birth of John and our own need to turn our hearts to Jesus in repentance and hope.



John lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel. Luke 1:80

**God Sends John the Baptist**  
**Luke 1:5-25 and 57-80**

God promised that one day Elizabeth and Zechariah would be parents. They were to give their son the name John which means 'the Lord is gracious.' God had a special job for John. When he grew up he was a prophet who prepared God's people for the coming Savior, God's Son Jesus.



**"Praise be to the Lord!"**

We thank the Lord that He keeps His promises. He kept His promise to Elizabeth and Zechariah and He kept His promise to His children.

God promised to send a Savior who would pay for our sins.

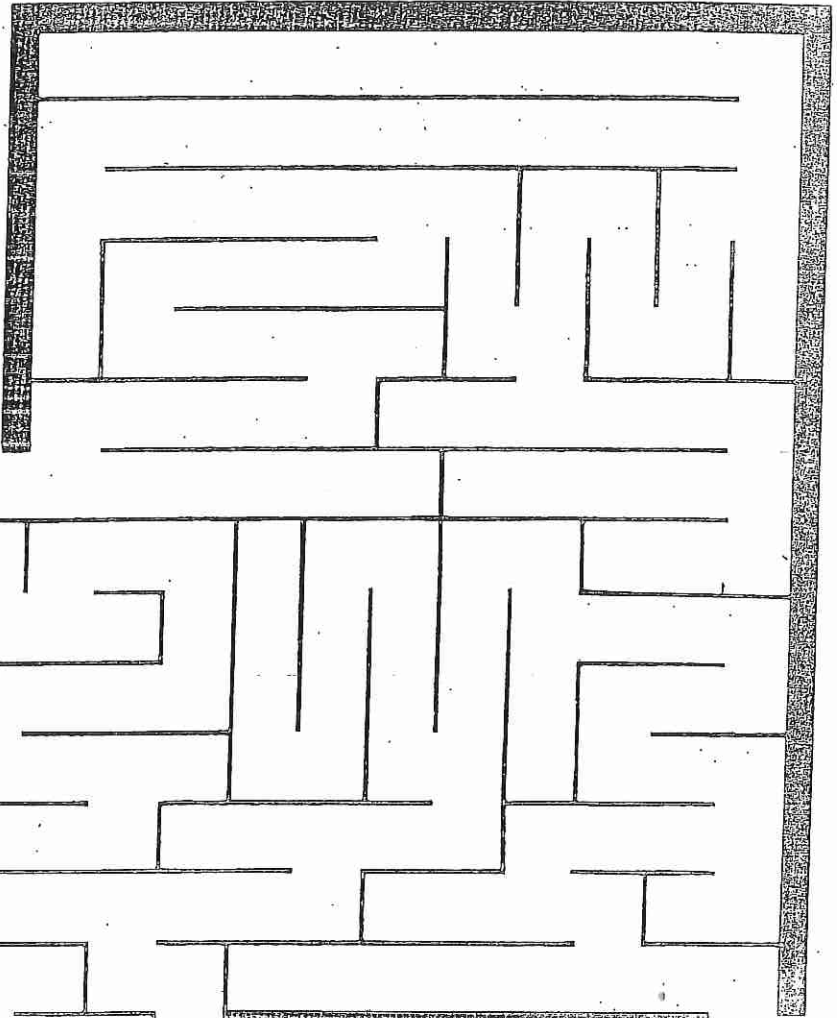
And He did – Jesus!



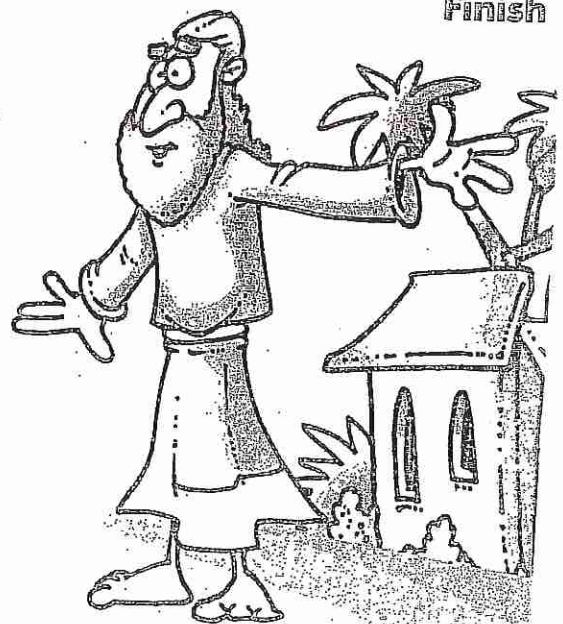
# The Angel visits Zechariah



Start

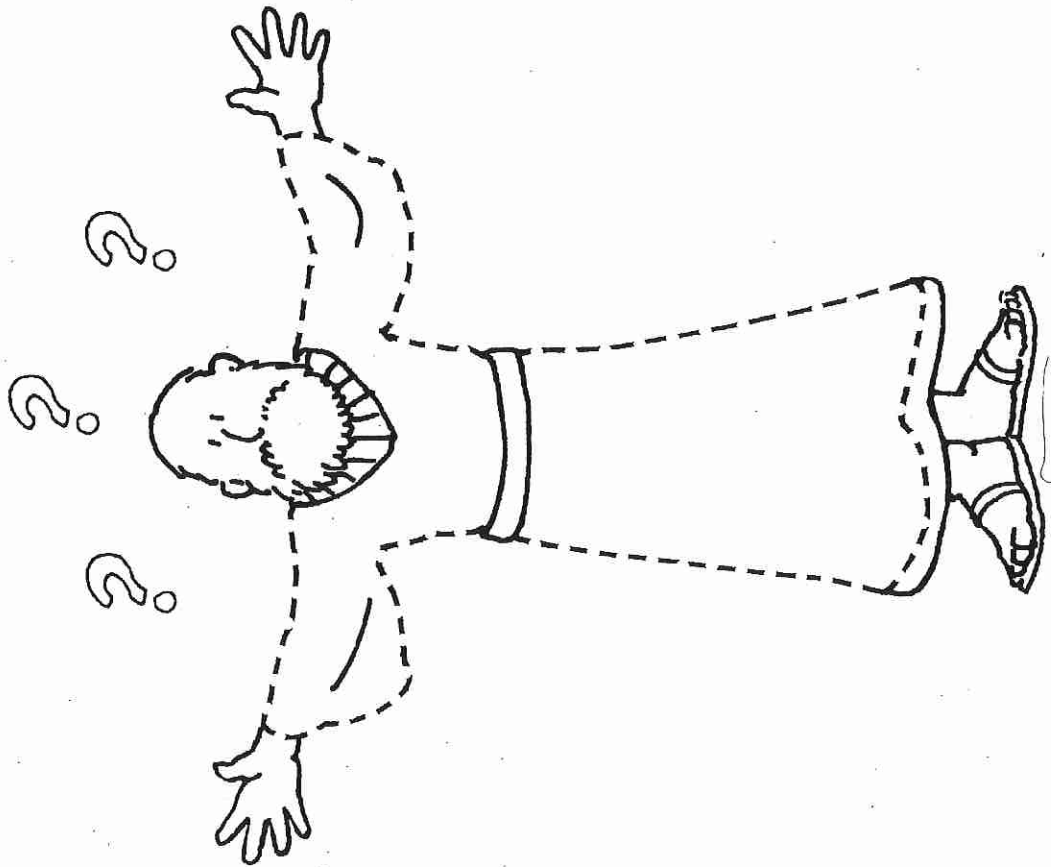


Finish



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.



# CEPC CHILDREN

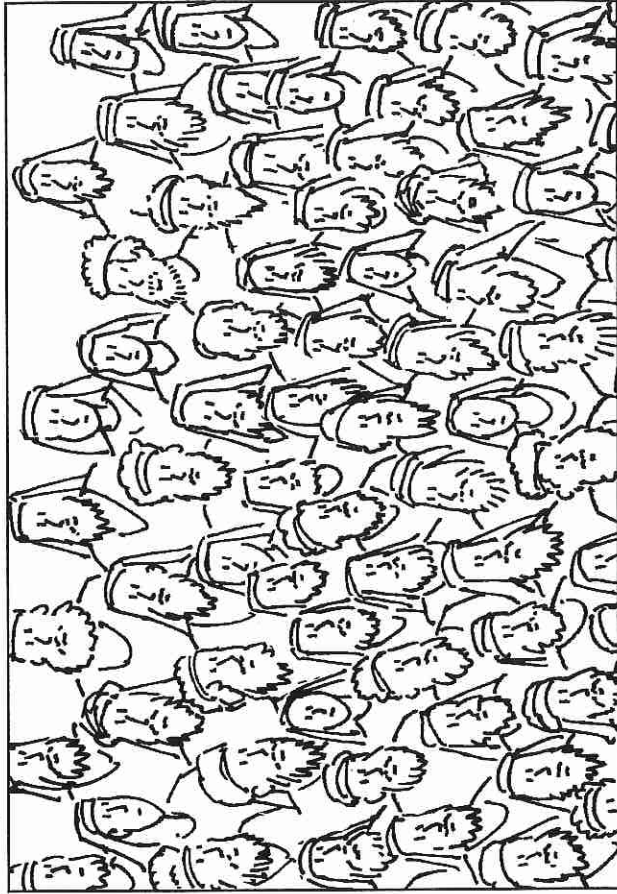
Younger children sheet

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.



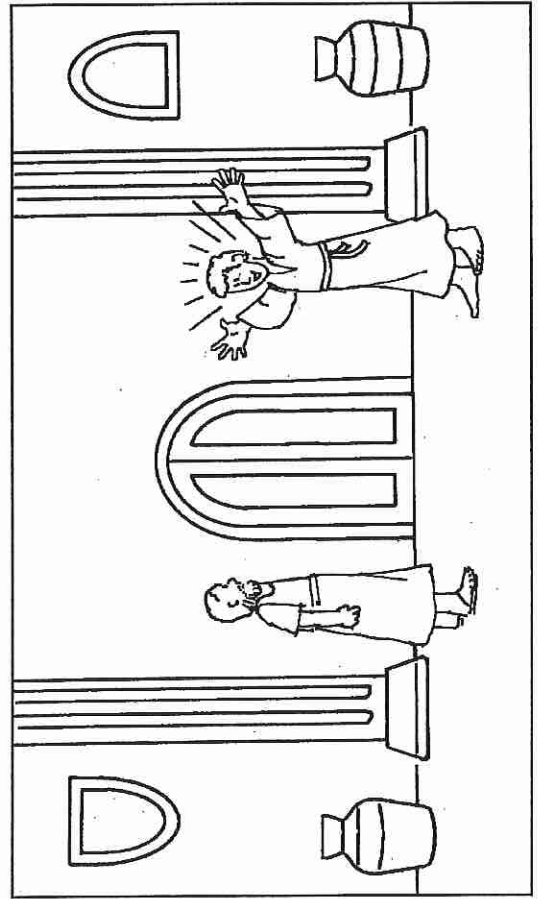
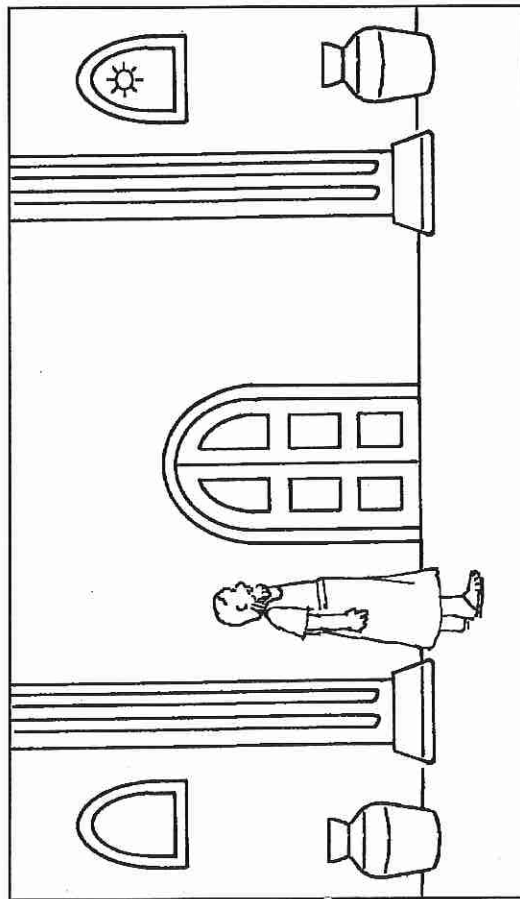
Find Zechariah and Elizabeth.





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.

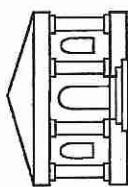
John  
joy

delight  
rejoice

# CEPC CHILDREN

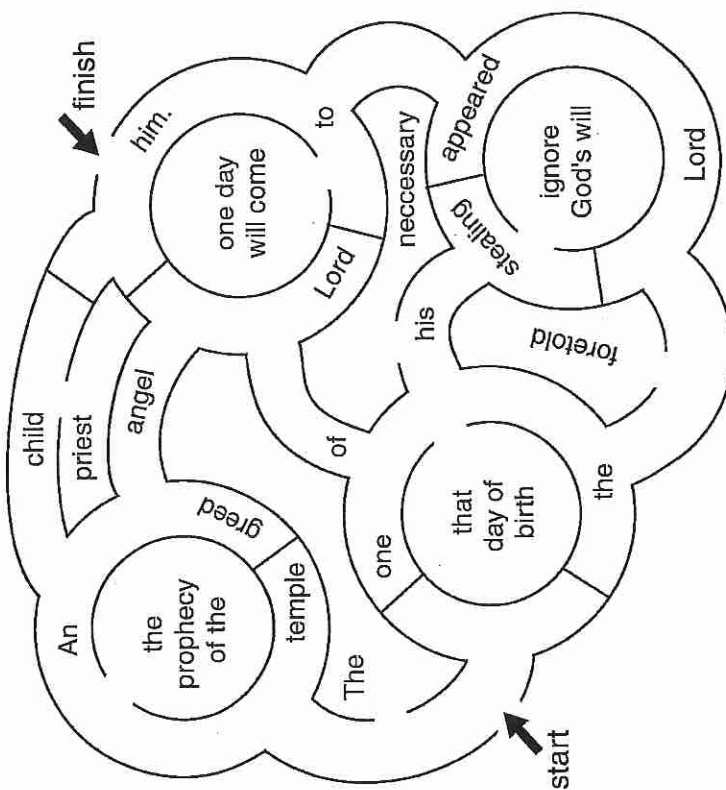
## Older children sheet

### Birth of John the Baptist Foretold



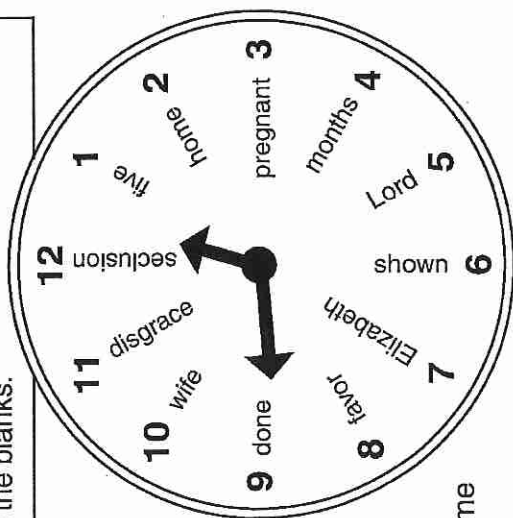
The priest Zechariah was chosen to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. What happened when he did this?

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



What 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

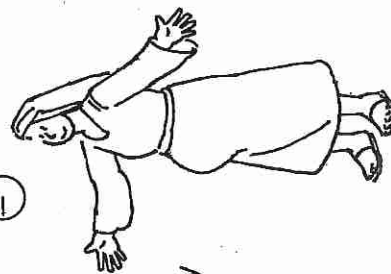
and for  remained

in . "The  has  this for

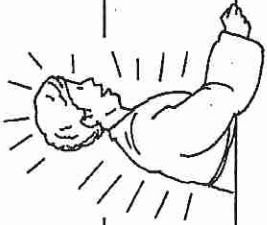
me," she said. "In these days He has

His  and taken away

my  among the people."



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

The angel said: "Y\_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

## 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 u i e i 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\_\_\_\_."