



Birth of a Prophet

Luke 1:57-80

EXPLORE

As a family, read *The Action Bible* story on pages 530–532 or the *Action Bible New Testament* on pages 20–21. Read this true Bible story found in Luke 1:57–80.

Here is what the story is about:

God sent an angel to tell Zechariah and Elizabeth that they would have a baby in their old age. The baby would prepare God's people to meet Jesus, the Saviour. The angel told them to name their baby John. When the time came for Zechariah and Elizabeth's son to be born, the family could not decide what his name should be. Traditionally, sons were named after their fathers or grandfathers. Elizabeth told the family that the baby would be named John, but the family doubted her. Zechariah wrote on a tablet that the baby's name was John. Suddenly, Zechariah was able to speak after going mute from doubting the angel. Zechariah worshipped and praised God. He thanked God because John was chosen to prepare God's people to welcome Jesus as the Saviour of the world.

REMEMBER

Answer each question with information you learned from the story:

- › What did Elizabeth and Zechariah name their son? John
- › When did Zechariah get his voice back? Zechariah doubted the angel and was made mute. After he wrote his son's name on a tablet, he was able to speak again.
- › What special role did John have? John was chosen to prepare a way for God's people to welcome Jesus as Saviour of the world.

DISCUSS

John was sent to fulfil a prophesy that God gave the Jews in the Old Testament. A prophesy is a message from God about things that are going to happen in the future. The prophet Malachi shared a prophesy from God.

Malachi 3:1a says, "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me."

- › Do you think it is easy or difficult to be a messenger for God? Why?
- › Have you ever had to give a message to someone? How did that person respond?

John was chosen by God to direct people to Jesus. John told the people to prepare their hearts for Jesus and His good news!

- › How can you prepare your heart for Jesus?

Preparing your heart for Jesus means you are listening for Him to speak and teach you. You can pray and tell Jesus your thoughts and feelings. You can read your Bible to learn about Jesus' teachings and the miracles He performed.

BLESSING

Read the prayer below aloud or pray your own prayer based on Luke 1:68.

(Child's name), may you praise the Lord because He sent Jesus to be your Saviour. May you tell others about Jesus and worship His name.

ACT

Names are important! We use them every day! Discuss the names in your own family. How were your names chosen? Are any of you named after a father, mother, or relative? If so, who? If not, ask your parents about how you got your name. Does your name have a specific meaning? Thank God together for knowing your names and for knowing you completely.