

1. Zacharias and the Angel

The Word of the Lord: The New Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

1. Zacharias and the Angel

- a) Maybe tell children about the temple. There was a “most holy place,” where only one person went and only once a year. Then in the “holy place” there was the altar where a priest like Zacharias burned incense, and a table with bread (show bread) on it.
- b) Tell children how important it was in those days to have a child—even more than today, when married couples want very badly to have a baby. There comes a time when you can’t have babies anymore when you get old, like they were.
- c) Emphasize how good Zacharias and Elizabeth were.
- d) Notice that although Zacharias thought it was now impossible to have a child, he still prayed to the Lord for one. He wanted one so badly.
- e) Zacharias couldn’t quite believe the good news that they would have a baby. Ask children to think of a time when they heard of something exciting (a holiday or a new bike) and were so excited they could hardly believe it.
- f) Can you imagine how thrilled Zacharias and Elizabeth both were when they learned that she was actually expecting a baby?



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The Lord Sends an Angel to Zacharias

When Herod was king of Judea there was a priest named Zacharias. His wife was called Elizabeth. They were both good people, following all the Lord's commandments. They had no children, and they were both very old.

While Zacharias was doing priestly work in the temple, the Lord chose him to burn incense. There were many people praying outside. And an Angel of the Lord appeared to Zacharias, standing by the right side of the altar of incense. When Zacharias saw the angel, he was afraid. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias. Your prayer has been heard and your wife Elizabeth will give birth to a son. You shall call his name John. You shall have joy and gladness, and many people will rejoice at his birth. He shall turn many to the Lord their God."

Then Zacharias said to the angel, "How can I know this, for I am old and so is my wife." And the angel answered and said to Zacharias, "I am Gabriel, and I have been sent by God to tell you these good things. And you shall be silent and not able to speak until the day that these things are done because you did not believe my words."

And the people outside were waiting for Zacharias, and they wondered why he stayed so long in the temple. But when he came out, he could not speak to them and they knew that he had seen a vision in the temple.

After his work was done, Zacharias went home to Elizabeth. And Elizabeth learned that she was going to have a baby, and she was very thankful to the Lord.

Luke 1

