

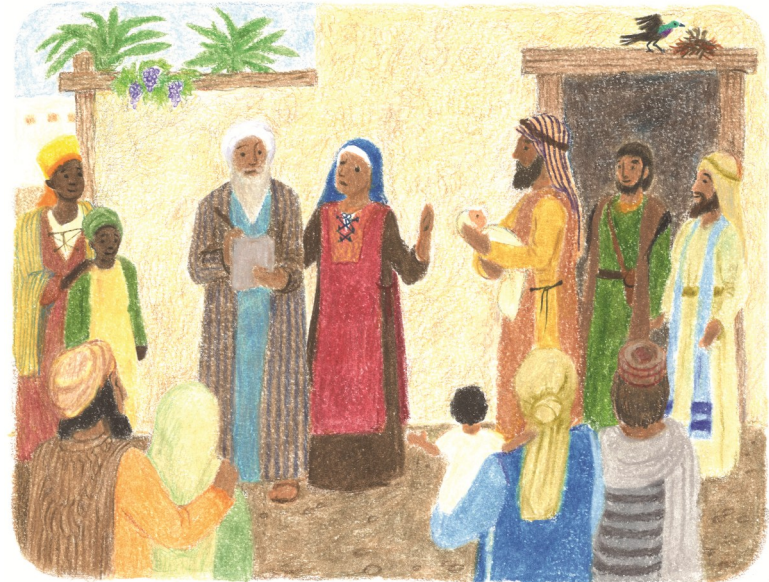
# 3. John the Baptist Is Born

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

## Notes for Parents & Teachers

### 3. John the Baptist Is Born

- a) Everyone rejoiced over this baby because it was so unexpected. Their friends knew how Zacharias and Elizabeth had longed for a baby, and the Lord had given them one.
- b) The friends wanted to call the baby Zacharias, because that was his father's name. But if they had, he would never have been able to be a great prophet, for the name John was a special name with a special meaning.
- c) Can you imagine what all the people thought when Zacharias, who hadn't spoken in ten months, suddenly started talking and promising wonderful things for the baby?
- d) Note that John lived in the desert, as a wild man. He was like Elijah, the great prophet, wearing the same rough clothes.



Text simplified by Carol Bongers Buss

Pictures by Dianna Echols Synnestvedt

Notes by the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss, Sr.

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## The Lord Gives a Baby to Zacharias and Elizabeth

When Elizabeth's time was come, she gave birth to a son. And their neighbors and family heard that the Lord had shown great love to her and rejoiced with Elizabeth.

On the eighth day they came to name the baby and called the little child Zacharias after his father. But his mother answered and said, "No, not so. He shall be called John." They said to her, "There is no one of your family who is called by this name."

Then they called to Zacharias and asked him what he would call the baby. Zacharias asked for a writing tablet and wrote on it saying, "His name is John." And all the people wondered about this. And immediately Zacharias's mouth was opened and his tongue was loosened, and he spoke, blessing God.

Then Zacharias said to the baby, "And you, little child, shall be called the prophet of the Highest, for you shall go before the face of the Lord to prepare His paths."

And the child grew and became strong in spirit. When he was grown, he lived in the desert until it was time to appear to the people of Israel.

Luke 1

