



The Jesus Bible Study for Kids

In The Beginning

– A Special Couple –



Zechariah means “God remembers” and Elizabeth means “God is my promise.” Their names remind us that God never forgets His promises.

¹Long ago, in a land called Judah, lived Zechariah and Elizabeth. They were both honest, kind people who loved God and tried to do the right thing every day. But there was a problem: they'd been married a long time and couldn't have children. They'd almost given up hope of starting a family... until one day everything changed!



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–Zechariah’s Big Surprise–



Casting lots was like drawing straws—priests trusted God to make the choice, not their own luck.

²Zechariah was a priest—a helper in the temple—and one morning he was chosen by chance (they cast lots, like drawing names from a hat) to go inside the special room where God’s presence was closest. As he put incense on the fire, a bright angel called Gabriel suddenly appeared! You can imagine poor Zechariah, wide-eyed and gobsmacked.

³“Don’t be frightened,” Gabriel said. “God has heard your prayers. Elizabeth will have

a baby boy, and you are to name him John. He’ll be filled with God’s Spirit even before he’s born, and he’ll help lots of people turn back to God.”

⁴Zechariah was puzzled. He was an old man, and Elizabeth wasn’t exactly spring lamb material either! So he asked, “How can I be sure this will happen?”

⁵Gabriel smiled (kind of) and said, “Because I’m Gabriel, God’s special messenger. But until the baby is born, you won’t be able to

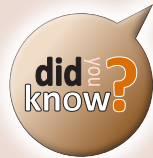


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“speak—because you didn’t believe me right away.”

⁶When Zechariah came out of the temple, he couldn’t say a word. Everyone guessed he’d seen a vision, but only he knew what a wild ride that morning had been.

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– Elizabeth’s Happy News –



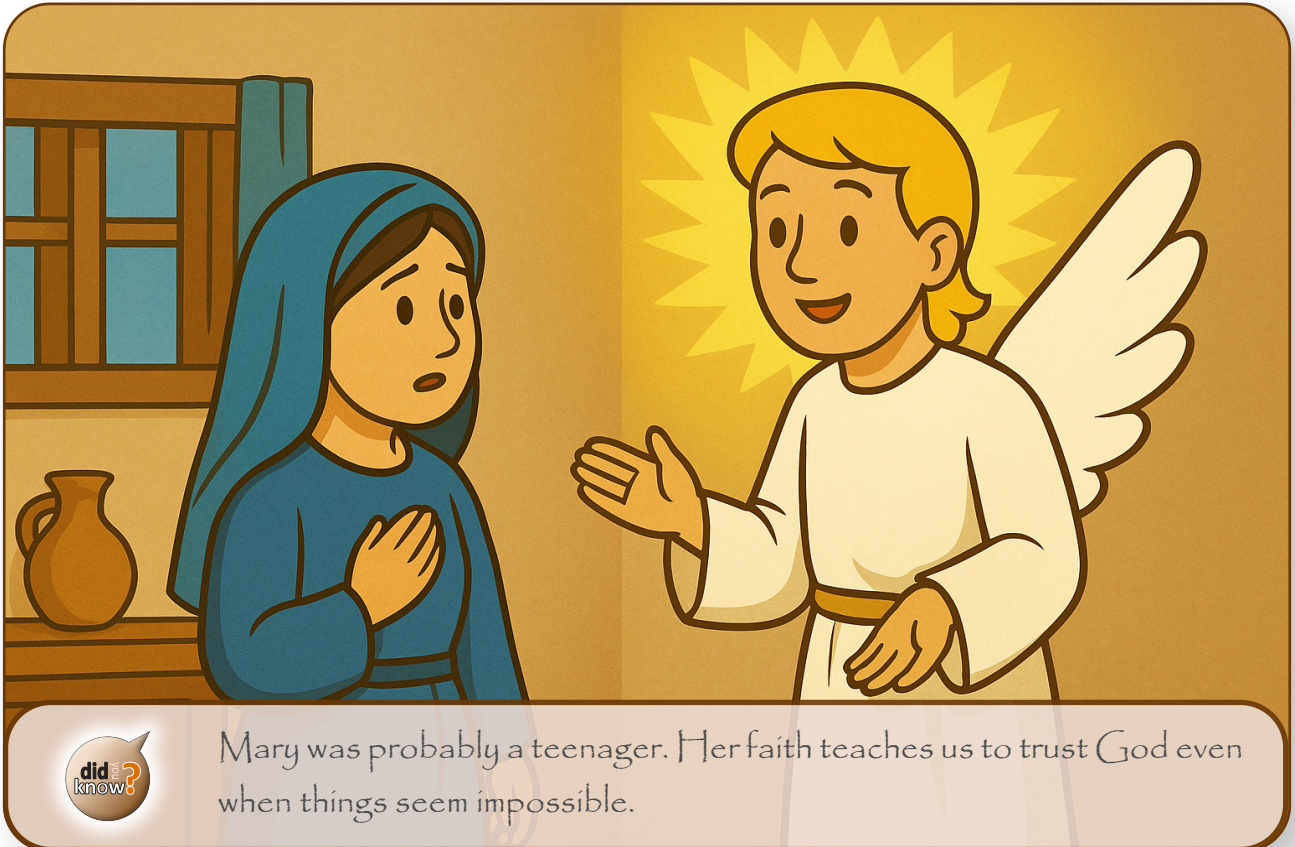
In Bible times, being unable to have children was sad. Elizabeth’s joy shows that God turns sorrow into happiness.

⁷A few days later, back at home in Ein Kerem, Elizabeth discovered she was pregnant! She was so overjoyed she hid away for five months, saying, “God has taken away my sadness and given me great joy.”



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– Mary Gets Amazing News –



Mary was probably a teenager. Her faith teaches us to trust God even when things seem impossible.

⁸Six months later, in the town of Nazareth, God sent Gabriel again—this time to a young woman named Mary. Mary was promised to be married to a carpenter called Joseph. Gabriel greeted her, “Kia ora, favoured one—God’s with you!” (That’s angel-speak for “great news ahead!”)

⁹Mary was a bit nervous, but Gabriel said, “Don’t be afraid! You’ll have a baby and name him Jesus. He’ll be called the Son of

the Most High, and his kingdom will never end.”

¹⁰“How can this happen?” Mary asked, since she was just a virgin.

¹¹“The Holy Spirit will make it so,” Gabriel explained, “and nothing’s impossible with God.”

¹²Mary simply said, “I am God’s servant—let it happen as you’ve said.”



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– Two Cousins Meet –



John and Jesus were relatives before they were born—God planned their meeting in the womb!

¹³Soon after, Mary travelled the 140 km (that's nearly four days' walk!) to see Elizabeth. When Mary arrived and said "Hello," baby John leapt in Elizabeth's tummy, and Elizabeth was filled with the Spirit. She cried out, ¹⁴"You're blessed—and so is the child you carry! You believed God's promise, and now it's coming true!"



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– Mary’s Song of Praise –



Mary’s song (the Magnificat) echoes prayers in the Old Testament, like Hannah’s prayer in 1 Samuel.

¹⁵Mary burst into a joyful song—called the Magnificat—thanking God for choosing her, lifting up the humble, and looking after those who need him most. It went something like:

¹⁶“My soul praises the Lord!

¹⁷He notices people like me, and all people will call me blessed.” (It’s a bit like when you sing loudly in the car because you’re just so stoked!)



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– The Birth of John –



Zechariah wrote on a tablet because he couldn't speak—his first words after being silent for months were "His name is John!"

¹⁸Three months later—right at Passover—Elizabeth had her baby. At his naming ceremony, everyone wanted to call him "Zechariah's son," but Elizabeth shouted, "No—he's John!" When they asked Zechariah, he wrote on a tablet, "His name is John." At once, he could speak again and started praising God. The whole town was amazed and wondered, "What great things will this child do?"



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– Zechariah’s Prophecy –

¹⁹Filled with the Holy Spirit, Zechariah spoke words of hope: that God was keeping his promises, would save his people, and that little John would get everyone ready for the coming of the Messiah—Jesus himself.

²⁰And that’s how God started his incredible plan—first with John’s birth, then with Jesus coming into the world. Not a bad way to begin a big story, eh?



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– Question & Answers –

1. A Special Couple

- Who are the two people walking together?
- Why do you think God remembered Zechariah and Elizabeth by giving them a child?
- Can you think of a time when you asked God for something and He helped you? How did that make you feel?

2. The Lots Fall for Zechariah

- What did Zechariah get to do inside the temple?
- Why was casting lots a big deal for the priests?
- When do you trust God to help you make choices instead of deciding by yourself?

3. God Promises a Son

- Who appeared to Zechariah in the temple?
- What promise did Gabriel give Zechariah?
- How can you remember that God gives you strength when you're scared?

4. Elizabeth's Joy

- How did Elizabeth feel when she found out she was pregnant?
- Why did Elizabeth hide herself away for five months?
- What's something you thank God for that made you really happy?



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5. Amazing News for Mary

- Who visited Mary, and where was she?
- Why was Mary afraid at first?
- What's one thing you've learned to trust God about, even when it seemed scary?

6. Two Cousins Meet

- What happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth?
- Why did baby John leap in his mother's womb?
- How can you show joy when you see friends or family?

7. Mary's Song of Praise

- What is Mary doing in her song?
- What does Mary say God has done for her and for others?
- Can you write or say your own short song or prayer thanking God for something He's done?

8. The Birth of John

- How did Zechariah show the baby's name instead of saying it?
- Why do you think everyone was amazed at his first words?
- When is a time that you felt amazed by something God did?

Next Study

