

An illustration depicting the birth of John the Baptist. On the left, a man with a beard and a red cap (Zechariah) looks down at a woman (Elizabeth) who is holding a baby. On the right, a woman in a dark headscarf (Mary) holds a baby. The background is a simple, warm-toned interior. The title 'John the Baptist' is written in large white letters across the top.

# John the Baptist

A priest and his wife were well beyond the years when it was possible to give birth to a child. The angel, Gabriel, gave Zechariah the incredible news that his wife, Elizabeth, would give birth to a son who would become a great preacher. They were to name the baby John. Elizabeth received a visit from her young cousin, Mary, and these two praised God in their shared joy. Soon after Mary left, Elizabeth gave birth to John.

# John The Baptist



Welcome all the Children/Young people and discuss their week. What did they get up to at school? What do they remember from last week's lesson? What things have they been praying and asking God for? **Start with Prayer**



**Luke 1:5-80**

It's time to read the bible together. Maybe someone would like to volunteer to read it, or perhaps we could read it together?



Click here to [Watch](#) together AND USE THE STORY IN THIS PACK TO READ.



- **Who were the parents of John the Baptist?** (Zechariah and Elizabeth)
- **Who told Zechariah that Elizabeth was going to have a baby?** (The angel Gabriel)
- **What did the angel tell Zechariah to name their baby?** (John)
- **What happened after Zechariah heard the angel's message?** (He became mute)
- **What was so unusual about Zechariah and Elizabeth having a baby?** (They were old)
- **What was special about Zechariah and Elizabeth's baby?** (He would help the people be ready to follow the Messiah, who is Jesus)
- **What do you think Zechariah learned from his experience in the temple and having a son?**
- **What do you think Elizabeth learned from all of this happening to her?**
- **What do you learn about God from this story?**



1. Use some of the plastic name badge holders and cut outs to design a badge that declares John's name.
2. Cut out the colouring in parts and design the badge with different colours. You can add stickers and glitter!
3. And where the name badge for all to see!



## MEMORY

## VERSE

God can do everything! **Luke 1:37**

# memory verse take home cut

God can do everything!

**Luke 1:37**

God can do everything!

**Luke 1:37**

God can do everything!

**Luke 1:37**

God can do everything!

**Luke 1:37**

God can do everything!

**Luke 1:37**

God can do everything!

**Luke 1:37**

God can do everything!

**Luke 1:37**

God can do everything!

**Luke 1:37**

God can do everything!

**Luke 1:37**

# ways to introduce

When the children are assembled in the story area, begin moving your lips and gesturing as if telling the story, but do not speak aloud.

Act frustrated that they do not seem to understand what you are saying.

Continue for another minute. "Oh, I guess you were having trouble understanding me, weren't you? What was the problem?"

That's right. I was talking, but no sound was coming out."

Listen to our Bible story to discover who else could not talk.

# THE STORY

Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth were two old people—like grandparents—except that Zechariah and Elizabeth were not grandparents.

They weren't even parents. They had no children, and that made them sad. But all their lives, they had followed God's commands, and that had made their lives happy.

Zechariah was a priest who helped in God's temple.

One day, a very special thing happened to him. He was chosen to be the one priest to go inside the temple and burn incense while the people stood outside and prayed. Zechariah must have felt especially happy as he entered the temple.

Suddenly, an angel appeared in front of him! Zechariah was terrified. The angel comforted him, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah. God has heard your prayer. Your wife Elizabeth will have a son. You will name him John. He will help people follow God's chosen leader."

That seems impossible. Can old people have babies? Only God could make that happen! Zechariah should have believed the angel and rejoiced. But he didn't. "How can this happen?" he asked. "My wife and I are old."

"I am the angel Gabriel. God sent me to deliver this good news to you. But now, since you did not believe my news, you will not be able to talk until my words come true."

Outside the temple, the crowd was getting impatient. They wondered why Zechariah was taking so long inside the temple. But when he did come out, he couldn't tell them. The angel's words had come true: Zechariah couldn't talk.

And more of the angel's words came true. Zechariah and Elizabeth soon discovered that they were going to have a baby. The neighbours and relatives rejoiced along with the parents. And when the baby was born, it was a boy, just as the angel had said.

# THE STORY pt 2

When the baby was eight days old, many friends and relatives of Zechariah and Elizabeth came for a party to give the baby his name.

As people gathered for the party, they talked about how the baby would be named Zechariah after his father. But Elizabeth heard them and said, “No, his name will be John!”

The guests were surprised.

“But none of your relatives have that name.”

They turned to Zechariah and gestured for him to show what he wanted the baby to be named—he still could not talk. He asked for a writing tablet, and on it was written, “His name is John.”

All of a sudden, Zechariah realized that he could talk!

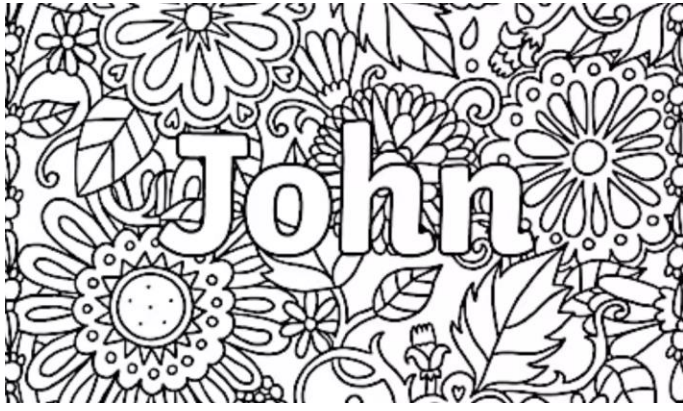
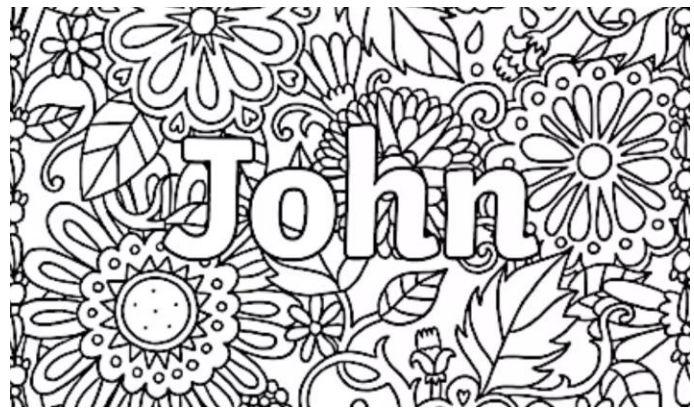
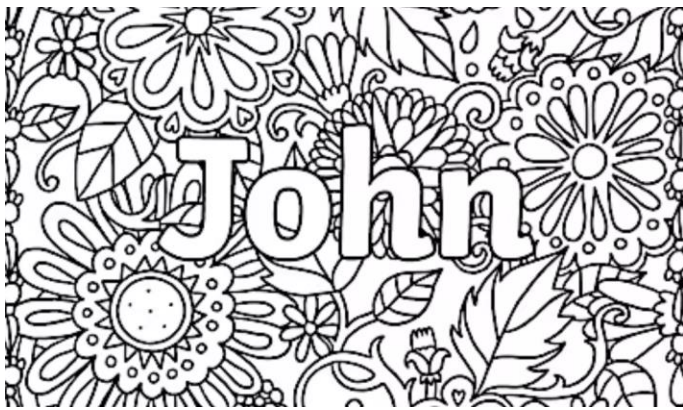
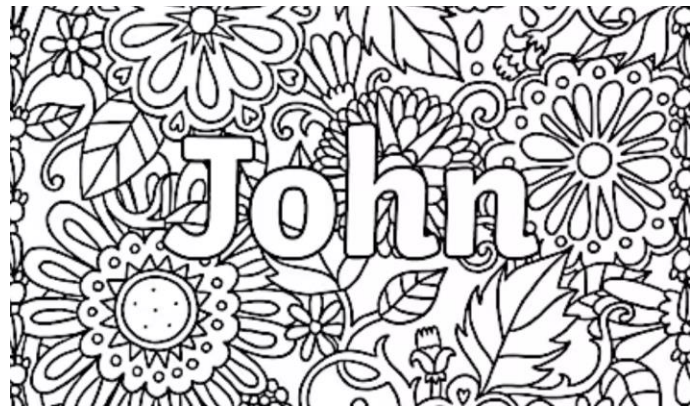
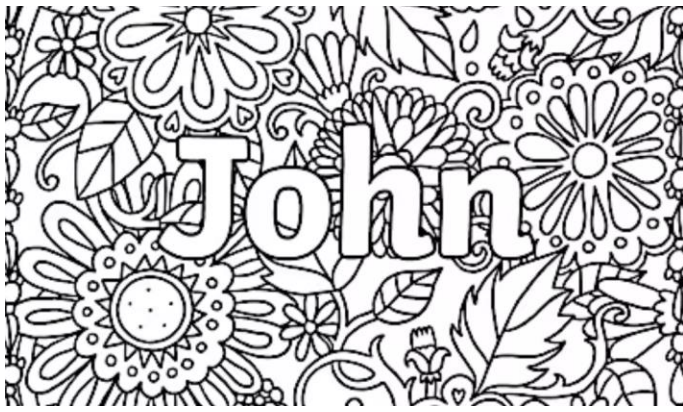
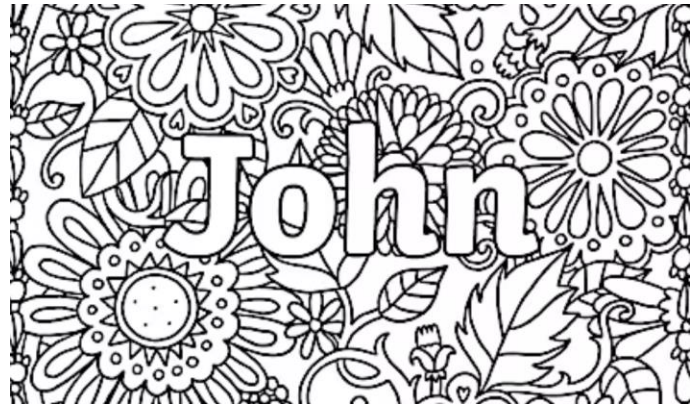
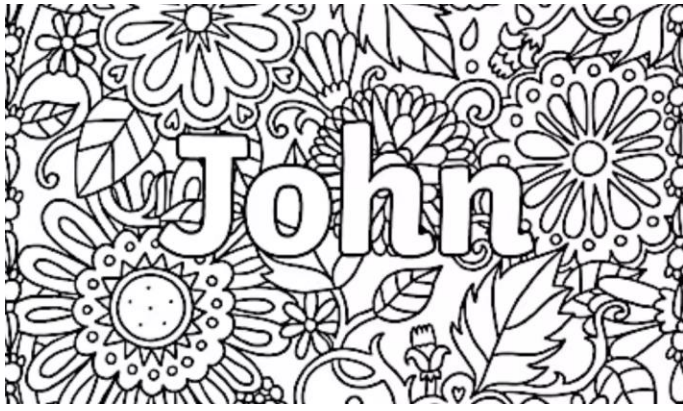
He began praising God for the wonderful way He had kept His promises.

He explained to the people that John, indeed, was a special baby, and God had a special plan for him: John would prepare people to follow Jesus (who would soon be born.)

Zechariah and Elizabeth were excited to have a son after all these years.

But they were even happier that God had chosen them as the parents of a boy who would grow up and help others follow God’s own Son.

# badge Cut out



# badge Cut out

John

John

John

John

John

John

John

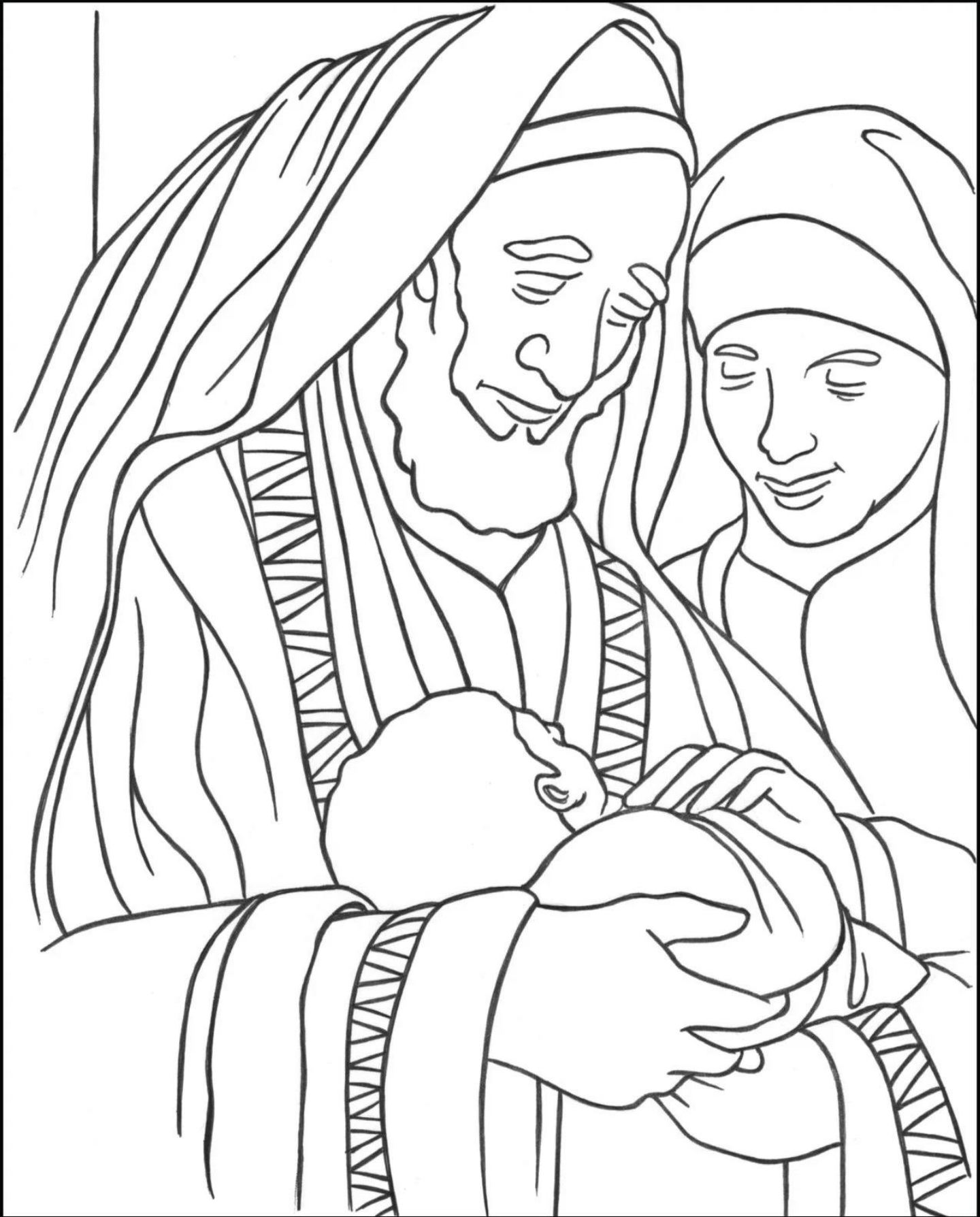
John

John

John



# colouring in



colouring in



