

Christmas Stories with Jolly

by Jill Crowder

John
Is
Born



For grades 3-5

John is Born

There once was a man named Zacharias who was a priest in Judaea. His wife, Elisabeth, was barren, and they had lived to be very old with no children. Then one day, God sent his angel, Gabrielle, to tell them they would soon have a son. They were to name him John, and he would prepare the world for the coming Messiah. Zacharias doubted the angel because Elisabeth was so old. Because Zacharias didn't believe what the angel was telling him, the angel told Zacharias he would be unable to speak until the baby arrived. Just as the angel said, Elisabeth found out she was going to have a baby. But also, as the angel had said, Zacharias wasn't able to speak. He had no voice at all.

Months passed and it was time for Elisabeth to have her very special baby. She gave birth to a baby boy. Eight days later, family and neighbors came to celebrate with them. When the visitors arrived, they thought Elisabeth and Zacharias would name the baby after his father like many people used to do. Their friends and neighbors called the baby Zacharias. Elisabeth spoke up and told the people the baby was going to be called John. The visitors were confused because no one in their family was named John. They grabbed something to write on and wrote a note to Zacharias asking him what the baby was to be called. Zacharias grabbed a writing table and wrote the words. "His name is John." Immediately, Zacharias opened his mouth, and he was able to speak. His voice returned to him just as the angel said it would.

As soon as Zacharias was able to speak again, he was filled with the Holy Ghost, and he started telling everyone in his house about the Messiah who was coming to save the people from their sins and provide a way to help bring them closer to God. Zacharias reminded the people how much God loved them, and of all the promises God had made to send the Messiah. He told them this wonderful thing was about to happen and his son, John, was going to help prepare the way for the Messiah. Zacharias praised God for the coming Messiah, for his son, John, and for the very important job that God had for John to do.

1. Who was married to Zacharias?
2. Who visited Zacharias with a special message from God?
3. Why couldn't Zacharias speak?
4. What day did Elisabeth and Zacharias have visitors?
5. What did the visitors call the baby?
6. How did Zacharias tell them the baby's name?
7. What happened to Zacharias after he wrote "his name is John"?
8. What did Zacharias start talking about after his voice returned?
9. What was going to be John's special job?

Look it Up! (All answers are KJV specific.)

Luke 1:57 – Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be _____; and she brought forth a son.

Luke 1:58 – And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had showed great mercy upon her; and they _____ with her.

Luke 1:59 – And it came to pass, that on the _____ day they came to circumcise the child;

Luke 1:61 – And they said unto her, There is none of thy _____ that is called by this name.

Luke 1:63 – And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they _____ all.

Luke 1:64 – And his mouth was opened immediately, and his _____ loosed, and he spake, and praised God.

Luke 1:67 – And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and _____, saying,

Luke 1:77 – To give _____ of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins.

Luke 1:79 – To give _____ to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

R	M	A	R	V	E	L	L	E	D	Q
E	T	R	E	W	L	I	G	H	T	K
J	O	T	Y	U	I	D	O	P	L	I
O	N	S	D	F	E	G	H	J	K	N
I	G	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	E	D
C	U	A	W	Z	G	X	C	V	B	R
E	E	O	U	I	H	O	P	M	N	E
D	N	Y	T	R	T	E	W	S	G	D
K	P	R	O	P	H	E	S	I	E	D

In My World

Zacharias hadn't been able to speak for several months. As soon as his tongue was loosened, he used it to praise God. He had seen an angel, been in the very presence of the unborn Messiah, watched as his wife gave birth in her old age, and couldn't tell anyone about any of it. When his mouth was opened, he jumped at the opportunity to tell of the goodness of God. We should be like Zacharias and use our voices to try to bring people closer to Jesus. Zacharias knew what it was like to have a story to tell but not be able to tell it. We need to be sure to use our abilities and opportunities for God's glory and never take those things for granted.

Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever had exciting news that you weren't allowed to tell? How did the excitement of sharing your news make you feel?
2. Have you ever had a moment when all eyes were on you and people were waiting to see how you would respond? Did you use that moment to glorify God?

My Prayer for You

My prayer for you is that you use your voice. Whether you are speaking, singing, signing, writing, or any other form of communication, I pray that you are telling people about Jesus. I hope you take the opportunities that God gives you in the spotlight to help others know Him better. Let others know how God is working in your life and help them to see Him in their lives. You never know when God is going to use you and your story to bring others to know Him.

And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all. Luke 1:63



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1. Elisabeth
2. Gabriel
3. He doubted the angel
4. The eighth day
5. Zacharias
6. He wrote "His name is John" on the stone tablet
7. His tongue loosened and he could speak
8. The coming Messiah
9. He was going to prepare the way for the Messiah

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Luke 1:57 – delivered.

Luke 1:58 – rejoiced

Luke 1:59 – eighth

Luke 1:61 – kindred

Luke 1:63 – marvelled

Luke 1:64 – tongue

Luke 1:67 – prophesied

Luke 1:77 – knowledge

Luke 1:79 – light