

Christmas Stories with Jolly

By Jill Crowder

Zacharias & Elisabeth



Preschool
Edition

Zacharias and Elisabeth

There once was a priest named Zacharias. Zacharias and his wife, Elisabeth, lived in Jerusalem. They were very old but had no children. Elisabeth was barren, which means she was unable to have a baby. This was very sad for them because they had no one to take care of them in their old age, but they trusted God and always tried to live their lives the way God wanted them to live.

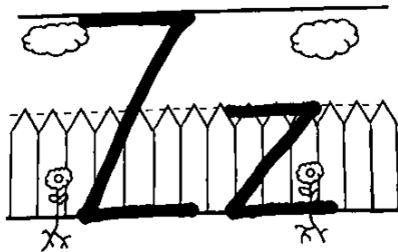
Zacharias worked in the temple in Jerusalem. There were many priests working in the temple, and they shared all the temple jobs. One of the jobs in the temple was to burn incense. This was a very special job. Whoever burned the incense had to go into a very special room all by themselves. There, they would light the incense and as it burned it made smoke that people could see all over Jerusalem. When the people of Jerusalem saw the smoke, they knew it was time for them to pray. This happened two times every day. So every day, the priest would roll dice to see which of them would get to go into the sacred room of the temple for this very special job. One day when Zacharias was working at the temple, something wonderful happened. The dice landed on him. He would be the one to go into the sacred room. When Zacharias entered the sacred room, an angel named Gabriel appeared to him. Gabriel had a very special message for Zacharias. Gabriel told Zacharias that God had heard his prayers and he and Elisabeth were going to have a baby. They were going to have a baby boy, and they were to name him John. John was going to be a very special baby. He would be filled with the Holy Spirit even while he was in his mother's tummy. John would grow up to have a very special job, but his job would not be in the temple like his father's. His job would be to prepare the world for the Messiah. Zacharias had heard of the Messiah. He knew God was going to send someone very special to save the whole world, but he didn't know when the Messiah would be coming. No one knew. Someone needed to tell the world

he would be coming soon, and Gabriel told Zacharias that John would be that person. John would tell the people to stop doing things that God didn't like and to get their hearts ready to meet Jesus, the Messiah.

Zacharias doubted the angel. He didn't think Elisabeth would be able to have a baby because she was too old. Gabriel told Zacharias that because he doubted the message God had sent, he wouldn't be able to speak until the baby was born. Instantly, Zacharias was no longer able to speak.

When Zacharias came out of the sacred room, all the other priests were waiting to see why he had been in there for so long. When they saw that he could no longer speak, they knew something special had happened to Zacharias while he was in the room.

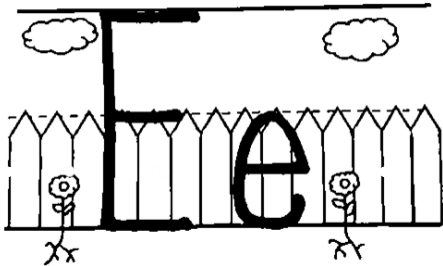
Later, when it was time for Zacharias to go home, he found out that Gabriel was right, Elisabeth was going to have a baby. Elisabeth praised God for hearing their prayers. Not only were they going to have a baby, but that baby would grow up to be a very special part of God's plan.



Z

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Zacharias

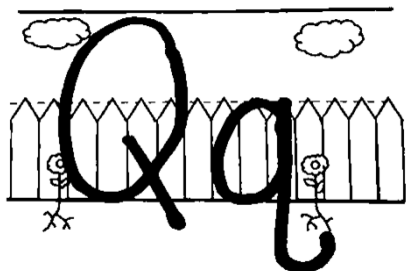


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Elisabeth

1. What was Zacharias' job?
2. Where did he work?
3. What was his wife's name?
4. What did they want but couldn't have?
5. What did Zacharias see when he went in the sacred room?
6. What was the angel's name?
7. What did the angel tell Zacharias was going to happen?
8. What was the special baby going to do?
9. Why didn't Zacharias believe the angel?
10. What happened to Zacharias when he doubted the angel?



Q

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quiet

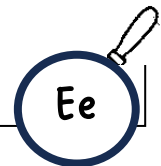
When Zacharias doubted the angel, he could no longer speak. He became very quiet. Look at the pictures below. Circle the item in each group that is quiet. Put an "X" on the item that is loud.



Zacharias and Elisabeth wanted to have a baby for a long time. God had a plan for them to have a special baby with a special purpose, but they had to wait until the time was right. Look at the watches below. Match the watch on the top with the watch on the bottom if they tell the same time.



And thou shalt have joy and
gladness, and many shall rejoice at
his birth. Luke 1:14



Doubt

– To not believe something someone tells you

Zacharias was a priest who worked in the temple. In the space below, draw a temple or a church.

- I did not have any children.
- I was too old to think about having a baby.
- An angel said I was going to be the parent of a very special baby who would prepare the world for Jesus.
- My husband's name was Zacharias.

Who am I?

—————

And thou shalt have joy and gladness, and
many shall rejoice at his birth. Luke 1:14



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