

**One day Jesus came to
John to be baptized.**

**When Jesus came up from
the water, the heavens
opened and God's spirit
descended like a dove and
settled on Jesus.**

**A voice from heaven said,
"This is my beloved Son,
in whom I am well pleased."**



Once in Judea, there was a good man named Zechariah, who was a Jewish priest. He and his wife, Elizabeth, obeyed God's commandments.



**One day an angel appeared to him and said,
“Do not be afraid, Zechariah,
for your prayer has been heard.
I am Gabriel and God sent me to give you good
news: Your wife will have a son and you will name
him John. He will bring many people to God.”**



Zechariah said, “How can this be true? I am an old man.” The angel said, “This is truly a message from God and because you did not believe, you will not be able to speak until the baby is born.” When Zechariah came out of the temple, he kept motioning to the people, but was unable to speak.



Everything happened as Gabriel said and when Elizabeth was pregnant, her cousin, Mary, came to visit her. Mary was pregnant with Jesus at the same time that Elizabeth was pregnant with John. When Elizabeth saw Mary, she felt the baby move inside her and she knew that Mary's baby would be very special.

J O H N

When John was born, everyone kept trying to convince Zechariah and Elizabeth to name the baby after a relative. But Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and he wrote:

His name is John.

Immediately, Zechariah could speak again and he thanked God.



When John grew up, he tried to tell people about God. Many people thought John was strange because he lived out in the wilderness. He wore camel skins and ate locusts and wild honey. He said, “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”, encouraging people to make room in their lives for God.



One day he got mad at some of the people who came to see him. He called them snakes and said that being sons of Abraham wasn't enough – they needed their own relationship with God.



He said they should turn away from their sins and ask God for forgiveness. He told them they should be honest and share what they had and he baptized many people in the Jordan River.