

Pre-Lesson Downloads -

#21 John the Baptist

Find recored lessons at - [MonteVista.org/Vista Stream](http://MonteVista.org/VistaStream)

Also find our online worship services at the same site.

Dear Families: This is the man that “prepared the way” for Jesus. Think back to the Mother Mary story. Remember after Mary received a visit from the angel Gabriel, she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. The baby, John the Baptist, leaped in Elizabeth’s womb when he heard Mary’s greeting. Here’s the story of that man who came before Jesus to the desert of Judea to prepare the people for the coming messiah. He told people to repent, turn away from their sin, because the kingdom of heaven was near. He baptized, immersed, those people in water to symbolize their inner cleansing. Isaiah prophecies in chapter 40, verse 3: A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” God bless you!

Bible Text: Luke 1:5-25; 57- 66; Matthew 3:1-6; 13-17 (slightly abridged)

In the days of king Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before Him; to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.” Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could no speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, “This is what the Lord has done for me when He looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown His great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, “No, he is to be called John.” They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who

heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, the Kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan confessing their sins. . . Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do You come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as He came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved," with whom I am well pleased."

Bible Verse:

*My joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.
John 3:30*

(This time have the older children learn the entire verse and the younger ones learn the 2nd part.)

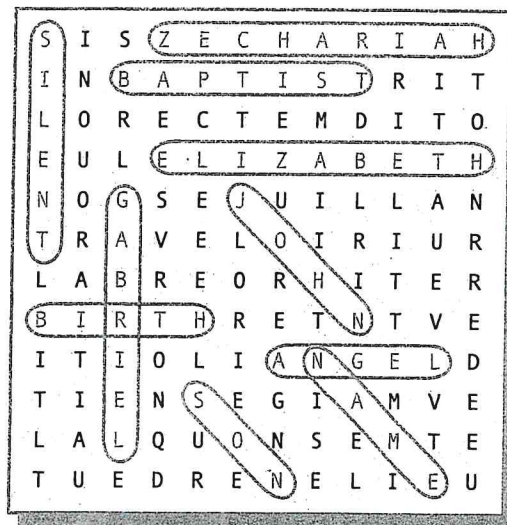
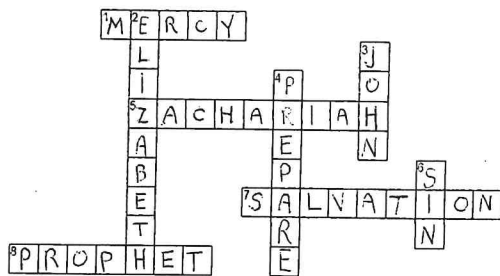
Possible Picture:



Materials:

*1 Crossword Puzzle *1 Word Search Puzzle *1 Coloring page *1 Craft page

Answers to the Puzzles:



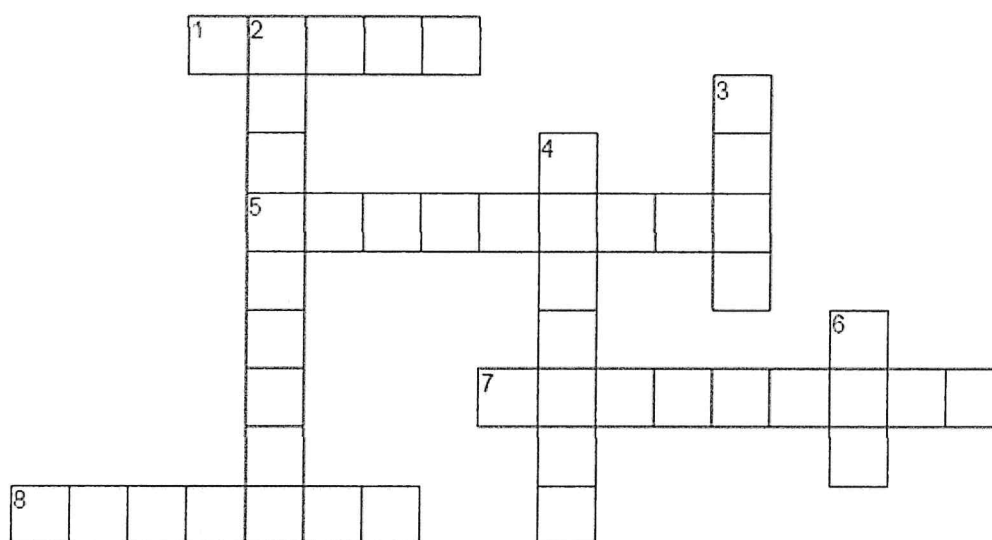
John Baptizes Jesus Craft: Cut top strip (about 7 inches) with dove on it. Leave the strip long. Cut 2 slits on the two lines between John and Jesus' heads. Color. Place the strip into the slits. Pull up and down to show the dove descending from heave after Jesus was baptized.



"His Name Is John"

"And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High because you will prepare the way for the Lord." Luke 1:76 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 1:67-80



ACROSS

1. Kind and gentle treatment of another person
5. The father of John the Baptist
7. To be forgiven of our sin
8. One who speaks for God

DOWN

2. The mother of John the Baptist
3. The one who prepared the way for Jesus
4. To make ready
6. To disobey God's law

ZACHARIAS
ELIZABETH

MERCY
SIN

SALVATION
JOHN

PREPARE
PROPHET

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Word Search for The Birth of John the Baptist

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



ANGEL
BAPTIST

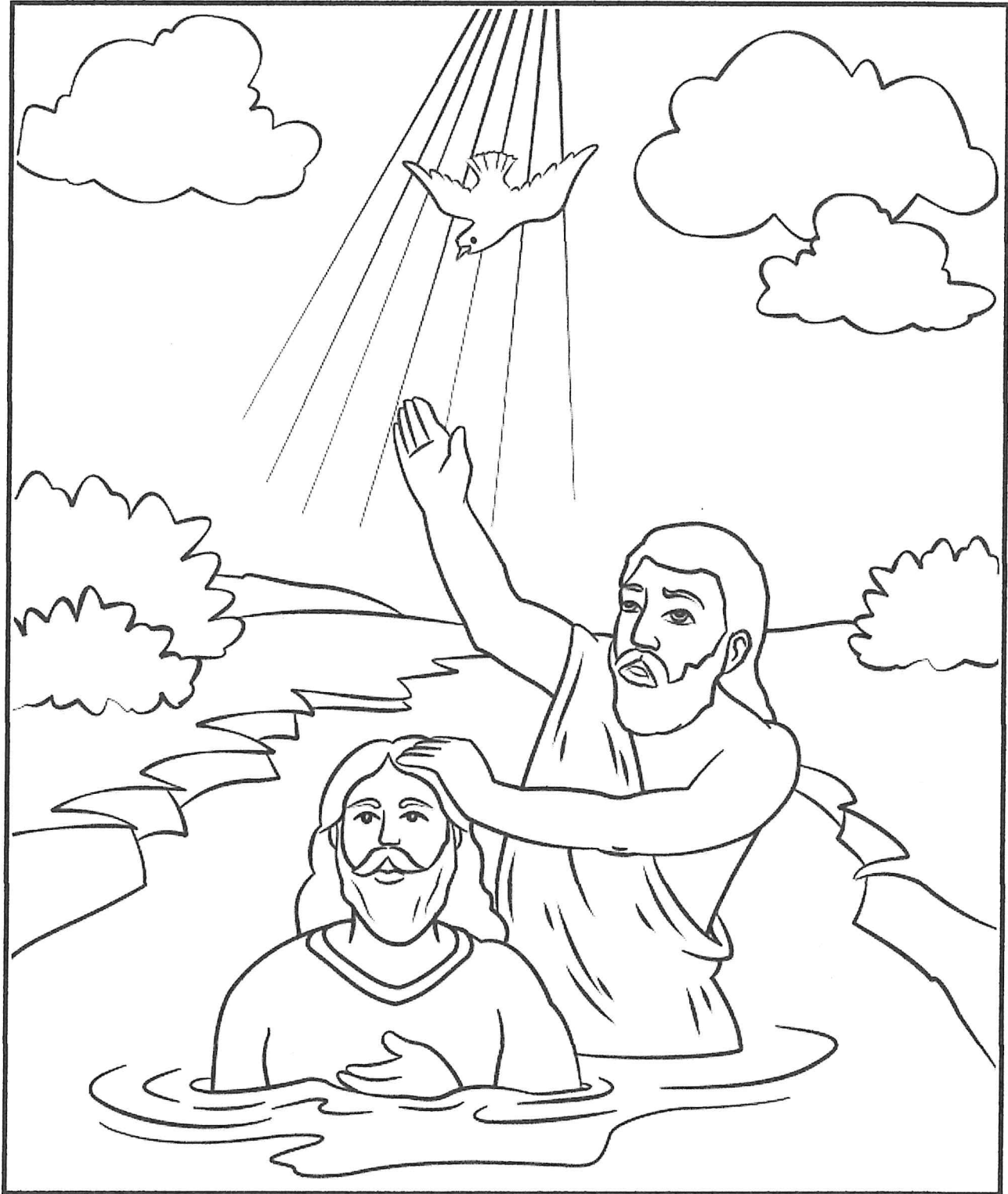
BIRTH
ELIZABETH

GABRIEL
JOHN

NAME
SILENT

SON
ZECHARIAH

JOHN THE BAPTIST



Prepare the way for the Lord!

F

ind out what God sent when His Son,
Jesus, was baptized.

5


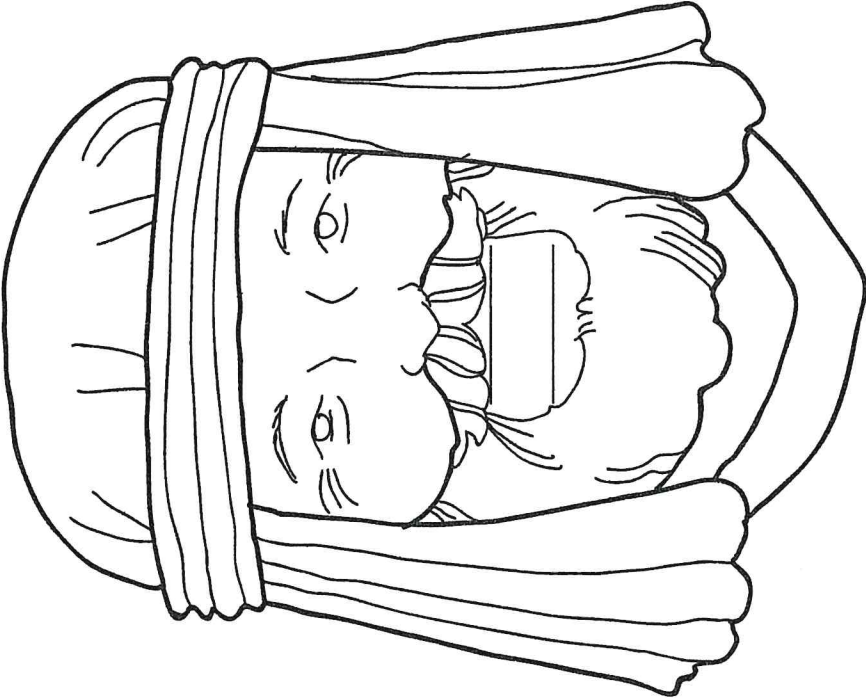



This is my Son, whom I love.
Matthew 3:17

M

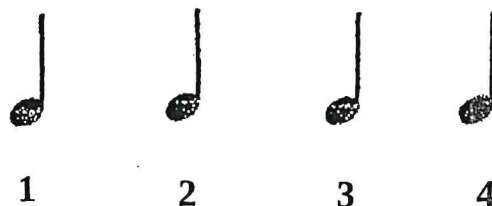
ake a puppet to show what happened when Zechariah didn't believe the angel.

5

<p><i>An angel appeared to Zechariah in the temple, and said, "Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will have a son, and you are to call him John."</i></p> <p><i>Zechariah asked how his wife could have a baby, since they were both so old. The angel said, I have been sent from God to tell you this good news. But since you do not believe me, you will not be able to speak until the child is born.</i></p> <p><i>Zechariah was not able to speak.</i></p> <p><i>Soon, Elizabeth had a baby boy. Many people told them names for the baby. But, Elizabeth said, "His name is John."</i></p> <p><i>Right then, Zechariah was able to speak. He began to praise God!</i></p> <p><i>(Luke 5:2-25 and 57-80)</i></p>	
	

Music Page: Add these 4 more rhythm patterns to last week's rhythm patterns. Play the straight 4-beats (like I did on the recording), then play one of the new patterns, play straight 4-beat pattern, then a new pattern. Practice them until you can do them by memory. If you can get someone to play with you, have them play the straight beat all the time while you do the rhythm patterns. Then switch.

straight 4-beat pattern



rhythm patterns

