

“A PROPHET IS BORN” ADVENT (WEEK 2)

YOUTH – 6TH - 12TH GRADES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 1:5-21 & 57-80

BEGINNING PRAYER ACTIVITY

Connecting with the story:

Just like the story of Mary, let's take a look at the encounter of Zechariah and Elizabeth as they waited for their prayers to be answered. Let's consider how they may have felt when their prayers for a child were answered. God has a purpose for our lives and in trying to understand His plan, we need a sense of the larger needs of the world and the community we live in. During this Christmas Season, we can find hope in these stories and it will help us prepare for all of what life has for us in a positive way. Let's take a moment and pray this prayer together:



Loving God, the story of Jesus' birth and the birth of John are both simple and amazingly profound. As we approach the celebration of Christmas, keep us mindful of the message of hope and peace that he brought to the world. Amen.

BIBLE READING

You will need a Bible – whatever one you have floating around your house is fine. Or, you can use Biblegateway.com (use the NRSV or CEB translations) or a Bible app (search NRSV Bible in your app store).

Read (LUKE 1:5-21 & 57-80) or watch these video links!

https://youtu.be/O0AoA4qY7_8

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/5H-M1VMWJKA](https://youtu.be/5h-M1vMwjKA)

THINK ABOUT IT

Okay, let's take three deep breaths and get into the details of this story! This is yet another baby, born to a couple beyond child-bearing years (remember Abraham and Sarah!). God certainly is full of surprises. In the first part of this wonderful life puzzle we have a woman (Mary) who is yet to be married and is told she will have God's son (Jesus); now we have an older woman (Elizabeth) who has prayed for a child for years and is about to give birth to a prophet of God (John). That's not the only contrast in this story. Mary questions how it could be possible for her to be pregnant when she has not had physical relations with a man, and Gabriel answers her and gives her time to consider what God is asking of her. But when Zechariah questions the ability of his wife to have a baby at her age, the same Gabriel silences his mouth for expressing an obvious doubt. When Mary visits Elizabeth, who is six months pregnant (Luke 1:39–55), she speaks in verse (46–55) about her future son. When John is born, Zechariah tells everyone what this tiny boy will accomplish for God. Both mother-to-be and new father are fully aware of what the future holds for their sons.

Think About It.. What hopes do you have for the children in your life, your own children or those of others? Elizabeth and Zechariah waited a long time for a baby. When have you waited for something for a long time? What sustained you during that wait? How was your faith part of it? Meditate on Luke 1:78–79 this week. Pray for peace, God's shalom in its many forms. When have you had to wait a long time for a prayer to be answered? What was this experience of waiting like? How was your faith challenged or changed? Zechariah is startled by the angel Gabriel appearing in the sanctuary. How would you react to an angel appearing to you at church? Why do you think Zechariah asks the angel Gabriel for a sign? How do you think Zechariah felt when he was unable to speak after receiving the good news that his and Elizabeth's prayers had been answered? How might this forced silence have been challenging? How might it have been a gift? What is the most surprising part of this story? What is the story of your birth? Who are you named after and why? While you dig deep into the answers to these questions, don't forget God's plan and purpose for your life is being revealed and shaped in you each day!

CONCLUDING SONG

<https://youtu.be/dNwt7LQiYck>

CHALLENGE WEEK 2!

Finish this week's challenge to have your name entered into a monthly prize drawing!

Do the below word search, coloring page and/or activity sheet, then email or text a copy of it to Pastor Chrissy or Joseph!

Email: chrissy.westbury@kalamazoofirstpres.org or joseph.burrel@kalamazoofirstpres.org

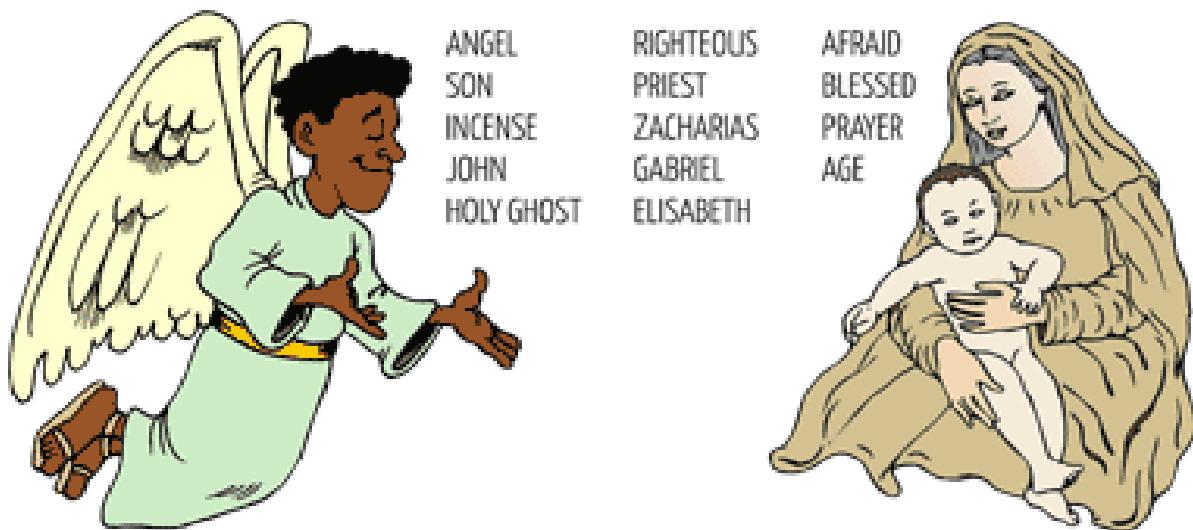
Or text to Pastor Chrissy at 989-854-1124

Word Search

The Birth of John the Baptist

Luke 1:5

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





THE STORY OF ELIZABETH

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.

