

WEEK OF APRIL 02, 2023



CHOSEN



TALK TOGETHER

HAS SOMEONE EVER ASKED YOU TO DELIVER A SPECIAL MESSAGE? HOW DID IT FEEL TO BE A CHOSEN MESSENGER?

Hundreds of years after David served as king, a priest named Zechariah served in God's temple. One day, an angel of the Lord shared some exciting news. Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, would have a baby boy named John! He would be God's chosen messenger to tell people about Jesus.

Zechariah struggled to believe the news the angel shared. Because he doubted God's message, Gabriel said Zechariah would not be able to speak for a while.

Months later Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and her friends and family celebrated! Zechariah still couldn't talk, so he wrote the words **"His name is John"** on a tablet. As soon as he did, a miracle happened! God allowed Zechariah to talk again! **Let's read what he said in Luke 1:68-79.**



TALK TOGETHER

Family conversations with God's Word.



MORE TO EXPLORE

Discover how this conversation fits into God's Big Story.



THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



COLORING PAGE

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.



*"BLESSED BE THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, FOR HE HAS VISITED AND REDEEMED HIS PEOPLE AND HAS RAISED UP A HORN OF SALVATION FOR US **IN THE HOUSE OF HIS SERVANT DAVID,** AS HE SPOKE BY THE MOUTH OF HIS HOLY PROPHETS FROM OF OLD, THAT WE SHOULD BE SAVED FROM OUR ENEMIES AND FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US; TO SHOW THE MERCY PROMISED TO OUR FATHERS AND TO REMEMBER HIS HOLY COVENANT, **THE OATH THAT HE SWORE TO OUR FATHER ABRAHAM,** TO GRANT US THAT WE, BEING DELIVERED FROM THE HAND OF OUR ENEMIES, MIGHT SERVE HIM WITHOUT FEAR, IN HOLINESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE HIM ALL OUR DAYS. AND **YOU, CHILD, WILL BE CALLED THE PROPHET OF THE MOST HIGH; FOR YOU WILL GO BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS, TO GIVE KNOWLEDGE OF SALVATION TO HIS PEOPLE IN THE FORGIVENESS OF THEIR SINS, BECAUSE OF THE TENDER MERCY OF OUR GOD,** WHEREBY THE SUNRISE SHALL VISIT US FROM ON HIGH TO GIVE LIGHT TO THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH, TO GUIDE OUR FEET INTO THE WAY OF PEACE."*

LUKE 1:68-79

When Zechariah could speak again, he praised God for His faithful care of His chosen people! He knew God was fulfilling His promises to Abraham and David.

As the years passed, John grew up. The Bible describes him as a man who came from the wilderness and preached about a coming Savior. He wore clothes made from camel hair and ate wild honey and bugs called locusts! What an interesting man!

God chose John to go throughout Israel, preparing people for the coming Savior. John told them Someone was coming who was mightier than him. In fact, He was so mighty that John wasn't even worthy to untie His sandals! John told the people to get ready and repent — to change their minds and hearts about sin. Then he baptized them with water.

One day, a King worthy of all our praise — Jesus, the Messiah promised from ancient times — came to the edge of the water and asked John to baptize Him. As Jesus came up out of the water, a voice from heaven said, *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."* (Matthew 3:17) And then, Jesus began His ministry on Earth, **loving, serving and teaching those around Him about our Great God and His great salvation.**



GOD'S BIG STORY

CREATION



EVERYTHING
GOD CREATED
WAS GOOD.

FALL



ADAM & EVE SINNED,
AND SIN PASSED TO
ALL PEOPLE, EVEN
YOU AND ME.

REDEMPTION



THOUGH ALL OF
US ARE SINNERS,
CHRIST DIED
FOR US.

RESTORATION



JESUS WILL
COME AGAIN.

FIND IT IN THE BIBLE:

LUKE

This week's story comes from the book of Luke. Luke is the third of four books known as the Gospels. The author of this book is a man named Luke, a physician. It was written so all would know that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

CAN I SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS WITH OTHERS AS JOHN DID?

Absolutely. In fact, God calls us to do so. **Matthew 28:18-20** is known as the Great Commission. Jesus tells His followers to go into the world and share the news about Him and salvation. As a follower of Jesus, His good news is something we shouldn't keep to ourselves.

OT-NT CONNECTION

Did you know the Bible talks in the Old Testament about John being God's chosen messenger? **Let's read this prophecy in Isaiah 40:3-5.**

- How did John fulfill this prophecy? (Hint: What message did he share?)
- How can you be a messenger like John and share the news about Jesus with your friends and family?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE BAPTIZED?

Baptism is an outward expression of our belief in Jesus. Jesus provided an example of being baptized to us in **Matthew chapter 3**. Jesus was sinless and He still chose to be baptized. Baptism does not take away our sins, nor does it save us. Instead, it shows others we have chosen to accept Jesus as our Savior. In **Matthew 28:18-20** Jesus commands His followers to spread the Gospel and baptize those who become saved.

JOURNAL

Read **Mark 1:1-11** and **Matthew 3:13-17**. Draw a picture in your journal of what you read.

READ

Check out **Mark 1:1-11** to learn more about Isaiah's prophecy about John and the baptism of Jesus. Share something you learned with a friend or family member.

★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

WEEK OF APRIL 02, 2023

♥ MEMORIZE

"AND YOU, CHILD, WILL BE CALLED THE PROPHET OF THE MOST HIGH; FOR YOU WILL GO BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS."

LUKE 1:76

Q: WHO PREPARED THE WAY FOR JESUS CHRIST?

A: A CHOSEN MESSENGER.

FIND

This week's verse is found in the book of Luke. Help your child find the book of Luke. Is this book in the Old or New Testament? How many chapters are there?

SHARE

Share with your child a time you told someone about Jesus. Maybe you told them what Jesus did in your life or maybe you shared the Gospel with them. Tell your child about your experience.

WATCH



Help your child learn their verse by watching this week's Memory Melody video!

PRAY

DEAR LORD, HELP ME TO BE BOLD FOR YOU AS JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS. PLEASE GIVE ME THE COURAGE TO TELL OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS. THANK YOU FOR SENDING A CHOSEN MESSENGER TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR YOUR SON, JESUS. AMEN.

TELL

Think of a message you can give your child to share with someone else! It can be silly or fun, but use the experience to help them understand what a messenger does.

CRAFT

God used the angel Gabriel to deliver an important message about His chosen messenger.

Help your child make angel wings. Draw a pair of wings on a piece of paper. Gather cotton balls, white feathers or white glitter. Help your child fill the outline of the wings with one or more of these items and create something that will remind them of Gabriel, who delivered the news about God's chosen messenger.

EAT

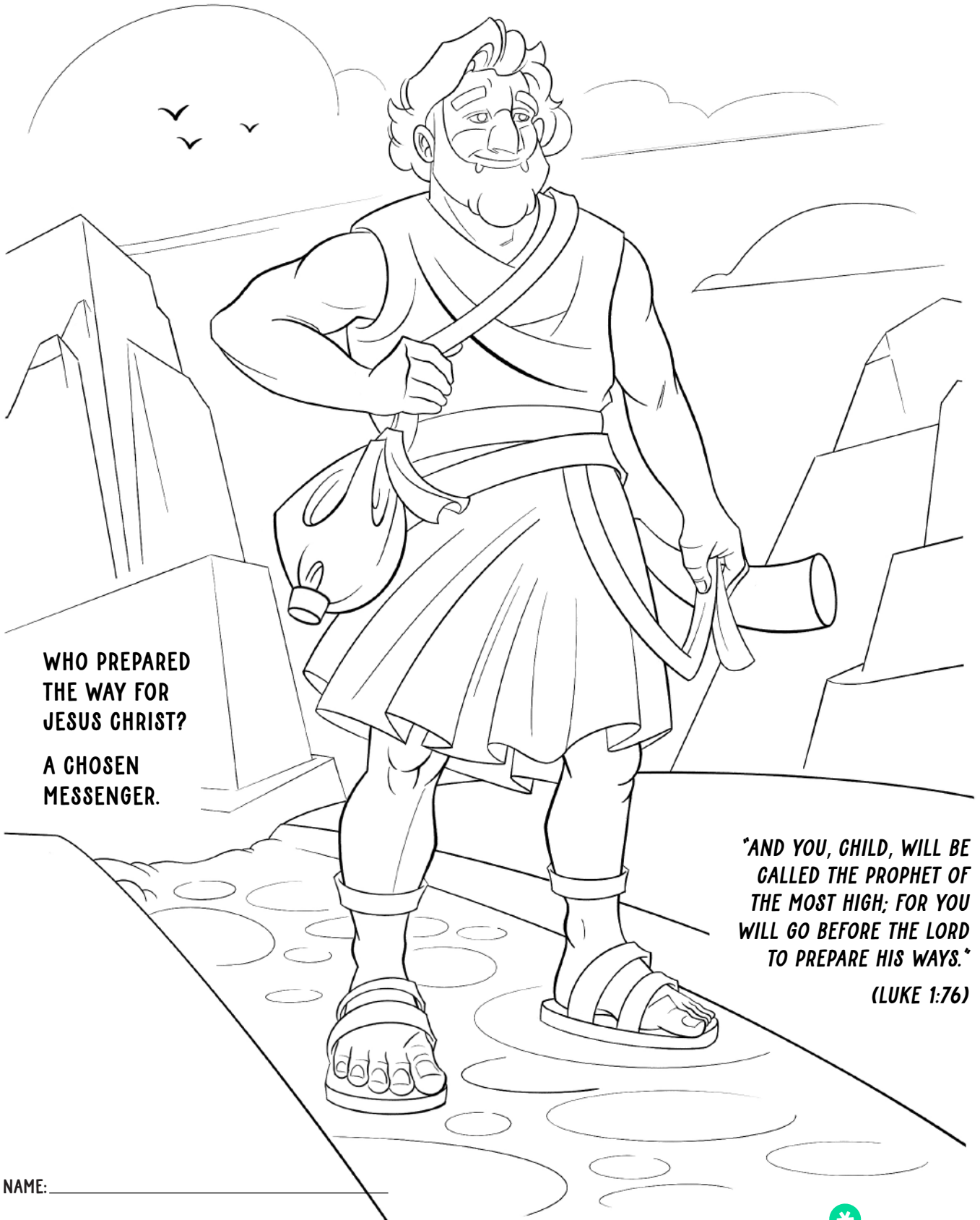
John the Baptist ate a diet of wild honey and locust! Locust isn't a popular grocery store item, but honey is! Take your child to the grocery store and help them pick out honey and bread. Make a snack out of the items and talk about how John the Baptist impacted people by sharing the good news about Jesus.

SING



Listen to this playlist to praise God for our Savior, Jesus Christ!

SCAN HERE TO LISTEN WHEREVER YOU ARE!



**WHO PREPARED
THE WAY FOR
JESUS CHRIST?**

**A CHOSEN
MESSENGER.**

***"AND YOU, CHILD, WILL BE
CALLED THE PROPHET OF
THE MOST HIGH; FOR YOU
WILL GO BEFORE THE LORD
TO PREPARE HIS WAYS."***

(LUKE 1:76)

NAME: _____