

# THE PEOPLE OF ADVENT



## Week Two - Zechariah, Elizabeth, and the Prophet

### **A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*The birth of John, the baptist, is a remarkable story. Not just because John seemed like a strange character, but because God purposefully chose to use regular humans to be part of the story of Jesus, the new perfect human, coming to rescue us. Pray that this story of John's birth would point our kids to the wonder of Jesus' birth.*

- **Big Idea:** God has been consistently faithful with His promise - and partners with humans to bring it!

### **Starter**

- **Evidences of Grace**  
*Take some time to ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work this week, month, or even past year. Anything, big or small, that is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.*
- **Video**  
*Watch this video from The Biggest Story: <https://bit.ly/2JZCWSX>*

### **Sing Together**

Born Is the King (It's Christmas) - <https://youtu.be/EnMBUjCPaZ0>

**Story - excerpt of 'Heaven Breaks Through' from The Jesus Storybook Bible**

About the same time Jesus was born, another baby was born. His name was John, and God had a special plan for him. John was going to get everyone ready for Jesus. The day John was born, his dad knew God's promise to Abraham was coming true. God was sending a Rescuer - and he was so happy he sang a song:

*Because God loves us with a never-stopping, never-giving-up, un-breaking, always and forever love, heaven is breaking through. He is sending us a light from heaven to shine on us like the sun, to shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace.*

So John grew up. Well, to tell you the truth, he was a bit unusual. But God sent John to tell His people something important. "Stop running away from God and run to Him instead," John said. "You need to be rescued. I have good news: the Rescuer is coming. Make your hearts ready for him. Yes, get ready! Because your King is coming back for you."

Great crowds listened to John. They were sorry they had sinned and they wanted to stop running away from God. They wanted to be rescued. So John baptized them, which means he plunged them in and out of the water. It showed that they wanted to follow God and begin a new life.

One day, John was baptizing people in the Jordan River, as usual, when he looked up and saw a man walking down to the water's edge. God spoke quietly to John, "This is the One!" John's heart leapt. This was the moment he'd been waiting for all his life. "Look," John said as Jesus came down to the water. But his voice came out as a whisper. He couldn't make it any louder. It was all he could do to even speak. "The Lamb of God. God's best lamb. Who takes away the sins of the whole world!"

"Will you baptize me too?" Jesus asked.

"Who am I to baptize you?" John asked.

"It's what God wants me to do," Jesus said.

So John baptized Jesus. Suddenly, it was as if someone had drawn back curtains in a dark room. As if heaven itself had opened. Because a beautiful light break through the clouds and shone down onto Jesus bathing him in gold. Beads of water glittered and sparkled like tiny diamonds in his hair. A white dove flew down and gently rested on Jesus and a voice came down from heaven. It was clear and strong and loud so everyone could hear, "This is my own Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him." God said. "Listen to him." Heaven had broken through and the great rescue had begun!

*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

- Why do you think God sent John to get people ready for Jesus?  
*Isn't it amazing that God chose to use a regular man like John to be part of the story of Jesus?!*
- When John baptized people, it symbolized being washed from their sins and made new. Why do you think Jesus got baptized?  
*Isn't it amazing that Jesus fully became human, like us, and did all the things humans were supposed to do?*
- John's dad said that his son would point people to the light from heaven God was sending to shine on those in darkness. What light was he talking about? What does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world?

### Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

God, thank You for sending us Your perfect Son, Jesus, who is our light. Thank You that we can now see You because of Jesus! Amen.

- **Craft:**

Use the attached sheet for kids to color and to discuss as a class what story it is telling.

*The candle on the left shows the Trinity symbol (Father, Son, and Spirit) passing a light to the candle on the right, representing the world. The light in the flame shows a baby. Jesus, born into this world, is the light sent from God to all of us.*

Have the kids draw their own picture on the back, showing how they would tell the story of God's light coming into the world.

- **BLESS Activity:**

*\*For kids to do during the week\**

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask the Spirit to help us to *Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath* (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Bless** rhythm.

God has blessed us greatly with the gift of salvation through Jesus! How can you and your family be a blessing to someone else this week?

Christmas is coming soon. It's great to think about what presents you might get, but what about giving to someone else who normally does not get blessed in that way?



# given

“For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given.”  
Isaiah 9:6