

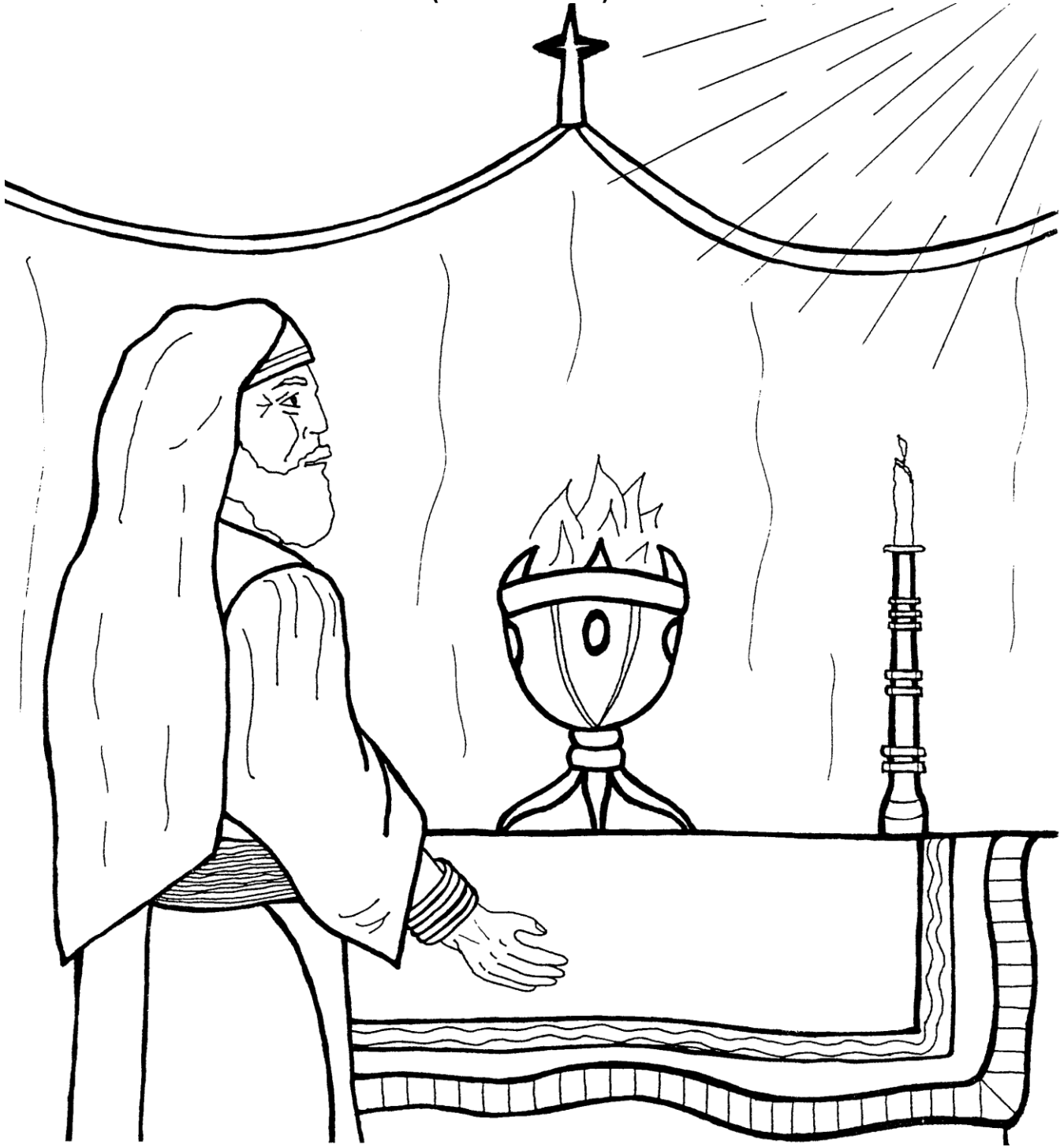
Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 164: Zacharias and Elizabeth
LUKE 1:5-25

When Herod was king of Judea, there was a priest by the name of Zacharias from the priestly group of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was from the family of Aaron. Both of them were good people and pleased the Lord God by obeying all that he had commanded. But they did not have children. Elizabeth could not have any, and both Zacharias and Elizabeth were already old. One day Zacharias' group of priests were on duty, and he was serving God as a priest. According to the custom of the priests, he had been chosen by drawing lots to go into the Lord's temple that day and to burn incense, while the people stood outside praying. All at once an angel from the Lord appeared to Zacharias at the right side of the altar. Zacharias was confused and afraid when he saw the angel. But the angel told him: "Don't be afraid, Zacharias! God has heard your prayers. Your wife Elizabeth will have a son, and you must name him John. His birth will make you very happy, and many people will be glad. Your son will be a great servant of the Lord. He must never drink wine or beer, and the power of the Holy Spirit will be with him from the time he is born."

John will lead many people in Israel to turn back to the Lord their God. He will go ahead of the Lord with the same power and spirit that Elijah had. And because of John, parents will be more thoughtful of their children. And people who now disobey God will begin to think as they ought to. That is how John will get people ready for the Lord. Zacharias said to the angel, "How will I know this is going to happen? My wife and I are both very old." The angel answered, "I am Gabriel, God's servant, and I was sent to tell you this good news. You have not believed what I have said. So you will not be able to say a thing until all this happens. But everything will take place when it is supposed to." The crowd was waiting for Zacharias and kept wondering why he was staying so long in the temple. When he did come out, he could not speak, and they knew he had seen a vision. He motioned to them with his hands, but did not say a thing.

When Zachariah's time of service in the temple was over, he went home. Soon after that, his wife was expecting a baby, and for five months she did not leave the house. She said to herself, "What the Lord has done for me will keep people from looking down on me."

164. ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH
(LUKE 1:5-25)



As Zacharias burns incense in the temple of the Lord, an angel of the Lord appears to him to tell him that he shall have a son.

LUKE 1:5-25

164. ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH

LUKE 1:5-25

MEMORY VERSE:

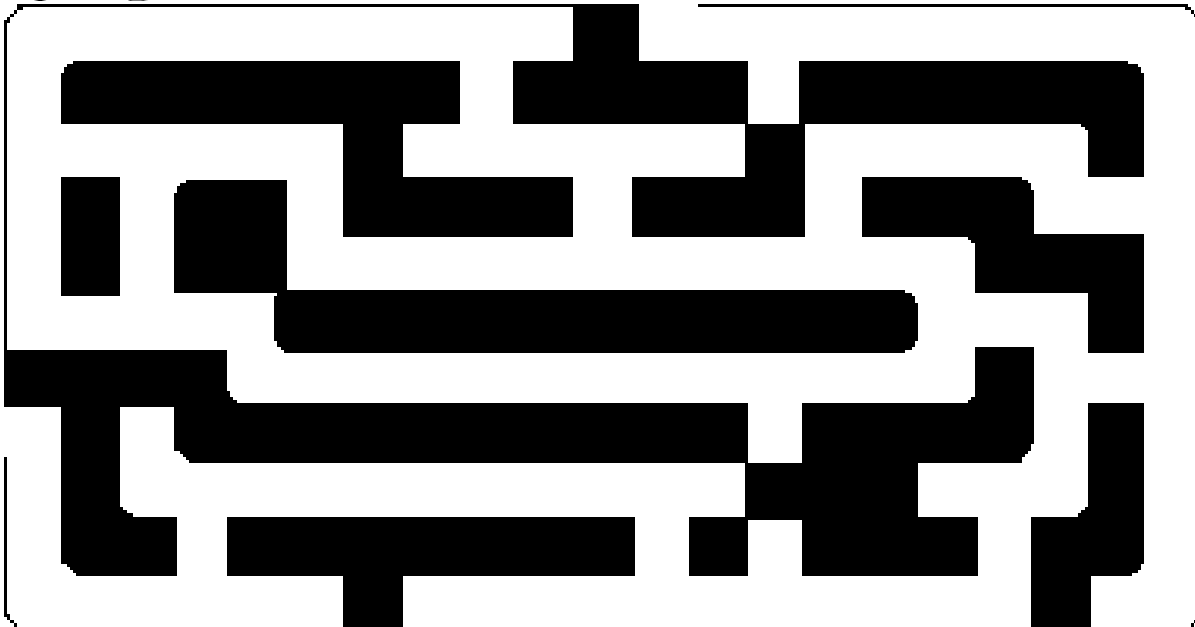
"John will lead many people in Israel to turn back to the Lord their God." Luke 1:16

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Zacharias and Elizabeth could not have children. TRUE or FALSE
2. Zacharias and Elizabeth were old, and had many children.
TRUE or FALSE
3. An angel appeared to Zacharias. TRUE or FALSE
4. Zacharias was blind until the baby was born. TRUE or FALSE
5. Zacharias was deaf until the baby was born. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Why Did the Angel make Zacharias unable to speak? Did he believe the angel at first?
2. Why was Zacharias surprised that his wife would have a baby?
3. What were they supposed to name the baby?
4. God had a very special plan for John as he grew up, what were some of the things God wanted John to do?



LESSON 164

Activity Idea

Drawing Lots

Precut enough 6" pieces of yarn for each child in your class. Cut one piece of yarn that is 12." Hold all the pieces of yarn in one hand so the ends look like they are all the same lengths. Have each child choose a piece of yarn and pull it from your closed hand.

Reward the child with the 12" piece of yarn with the privilege of passing out the snack or drink to the entire class, or let them go around with the cup or box to let the children draw numbers to get their prizes.

What is YOUR Job?

Have each of the children draw a picture of what they would like to be when they grow up. Collect each of the pictures, and talk about the occupations. "What are the responsibilities that go with this job? What things are fun about this job? What things might be difficult? Before John was even born, God had a very special plan for his life. He was supposed to teach and lead other people to God. He would be a kind of preacher. This was the job God had for him."

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of:

1. Belief in His Word.
2. Faithfulness, loyalty, and obedience.
3. Belief that He can do the impossible.

If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them the opportunity to do so.