

# THE OLD TESTAMENT POINTS TO JESUS

## Luke 1; John 1



A priest named Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth lived rightly before God. They were both old and had no children because Elizabeth was not able to have a baby. One day, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the sanctuary of the Lord, and he was afraid! But the angel said, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because God has heard your prayer. Your wife Elizabeth will have a son, and you will name him John. He will have the spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and make the people ready for the Lord.” This was spoken to fulfill what the prophet Malachi said would happen. Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I know this will happen? After all, my wife and I are very old.” The angel answered, “You will become silent and unable to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words.” When Zechariah came out of the sanctuary, he couldn’t speak. Elizabeth became pregnant and gave birth to a

son. When it came time to name the baby boy, Zechariah wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately after writing these words, Zechariah could speak again. Then Zechariah praised God, saying, “Blessed is the Lord because he has provided salvation for his people. You, my son, will be called a prophet of the Most High, and you will go before the Lord and prepare his ways.” God had kept the promise He made to Abraham and his descendants.

When John grew up, God sent him to be a witness for Jesus so people might believe in Jesus. John said, “I am a voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord—just as Isaiah the prophet said.”

*Christ Connection:* God spoke through His prophets in the Old Testament, like Isaiah and Malachi, and shared His plan to send Jesus into the world to save people from sin. When the time had come, God called John to be a witness for Jesus. Anyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

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The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

» In the blank in front of each statement, write the name of the Bible story person to whom it applies. Answers may be used more than once and include:

Zechariah, Jesus, John the Baptist, Elizabeth, the angel

\_\_\_\_\_ He was unable to speak because he didn't believe God's words.

\_\_\_\_\_ He was a witness for Jesus.

\_\_\_\_\_ He provides salvation.

\_\_\_\_\_ He went before Jesus to prepare the way.

\_\_\_\_\_ She was Zechariah's wife and the mother of John the Baptist.

\_\_\_\_\_ He shared the message that John would be born.

\_\_\_\_\_ He wrote that the baby's name would be John.

\_\_\_\_\_ He lived outside the city in the wilderness.

» What does this story teach us about God?

» What did John call for the people to do?

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### GOSPEL DISCUSSION

God spoke through His prophets in the Old Testament, like Isaiah and Malachi, and shared His plan to send Jesus into the world to save people from sin. When the time had come, God called John to be a witness for Jesus. Jesus came into the world to provide a way for us to be saved from our sin when we trust in Him.



## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

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» How did John's birth fulfill God's words in the Old Testament?

» How does the Old Testament point to Jesus?

» What are some specific ways you can be a witness for Jesus?

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### **CHRIST CONNECTION**

God spoke through His prophets in the Old Testament, like Isaiah and Malachi, and shared His plan to send Jesus into the world to save people from sin. When the time had come, God called John to be a witness for Jesus. Anyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved.



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

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» Find John 20:31 in your Bible and write the words below.

» Write a prayer to God, thanking God for sending Jesus as our Savior and asking Him to help us share the good news of the gospel with others.

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### READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

Isaiah 7:14

Luke 24:27

Malachi 3:1

Luke 1:32-33

Isaiah 40:3

Luke 1:76-77