



## Zechariah's Unbelief

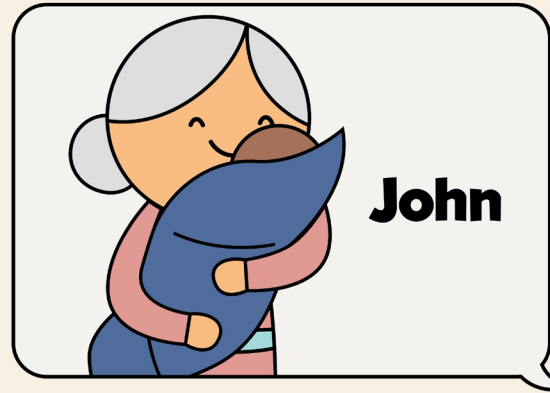
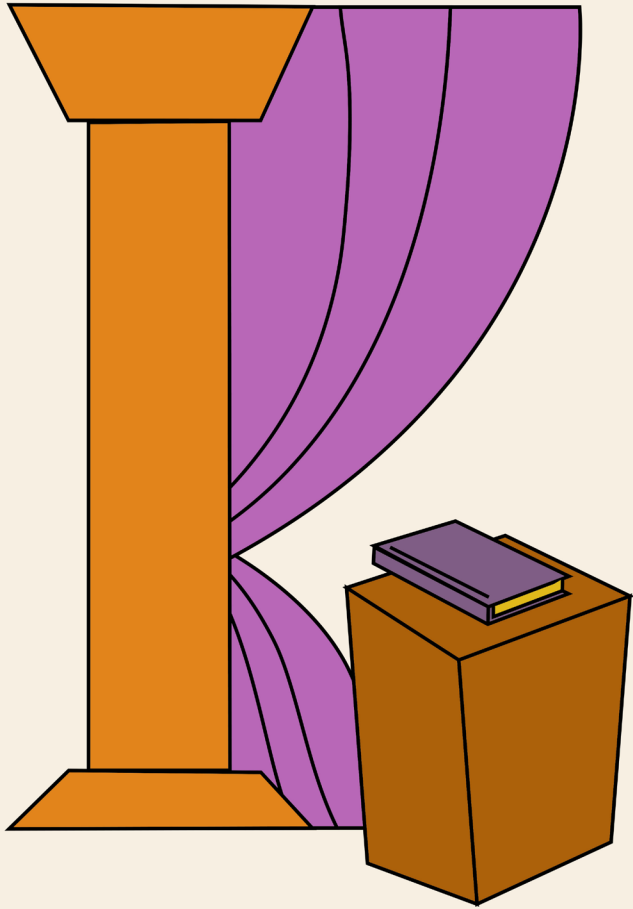
Luke 1:5-25, 1:57-80

***There's a true story in the Bible about a man who learned that when God says something, you can believe Him!***

***(Point to Zechariah)***

***This man's name was Zechariah, and He was a priest, so his job was to take care of the temple. He was married to a woman named Elizabeth, and they loved God and each other. One thing they were missing was a baby. They had always wanted one, but they were old now and didn't think it was possible anymore.***

***Have you ever really wanted something but felt like you were never going to get it? (Allow responses) How did that make you feel? (Allow responses) Well, Zechariah and Elizabeth felt really sad. But let's keep reading to see what happened next.***



***One day, while Zechariah was serving in the temple, an angel of the Lord appeared to him. When Zechariah saw the angel, he was amazed and pretty scared, too! Do you think you would have been scared if you saw an angel? (Allow responses)***

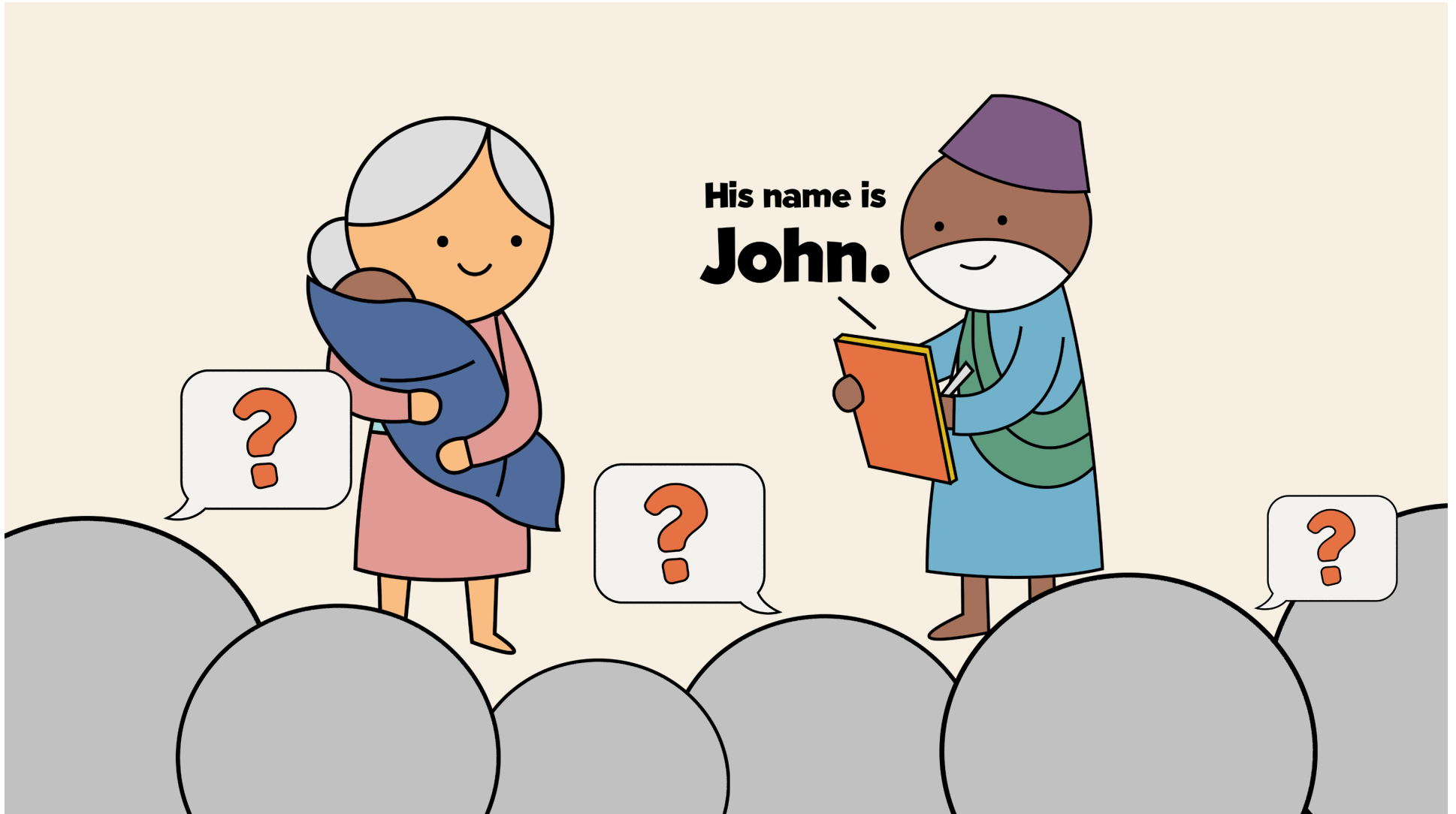
***But the angel had really good news. He said, “Zechariah, don’t be afraid ... Your wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to a son. You will name him John.”***

***Who thinks this was great news?! (Allow responses) Yes! But Zechariah didn’t believe that what the angel had said could really happen. And because he didn’t believe God’s message, the angel told him, “... You will not be able to talk until the day these things happen ... because you didn’t believe what I told you. But these things really will happen.”***

***Just like the angel said, Zechariah could no longer talk! And why couldn’t Zechariah talk? (Because he didn’t believe what God had said)***

***Not long after Zechariah returned home, he found out that what the angel said was true—Elizabeth was pregnant!***

His name is  
**John.**



***Elizabeth was so excited about what God had done for her!***

***When it was time for Elizabeth to give birth, she had a boy. Everyone was very happy and wanted her to name the baby Zechariah, after his dad. But what did the angel say the baby's name should be? (John)***

***That's right! Elizabeth tried to tell everyone that his name was John, but no one would believe her. So they asked Zechariah what he thought about it, but he still couldn't talk. So they brought him a tablet and Zechariah wrote, "His name is John." Then Zechariah could talk again, and he began singing to God and praising Him.***



***In his song, Zechariah prayed a special prayer for his brand new baby boy, John, saying he would prepare the way for the Savior to come. And Zechariah thanked God for that Savior as well!***

***There's so much going on around us that it can be hard to believe God sometimes. Did Zechariah believe God at first? (No) No, but did God do what He said He would do? (Yes) You got it! This story shows us that if God says it, we can believe He will do it!***