

Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

THE ANGEL VISITS ZECHARIAH AND MARY

by
Chris Thorpe
& people from Coromandel Baptist Church

Illustrated by Kay Kammermann

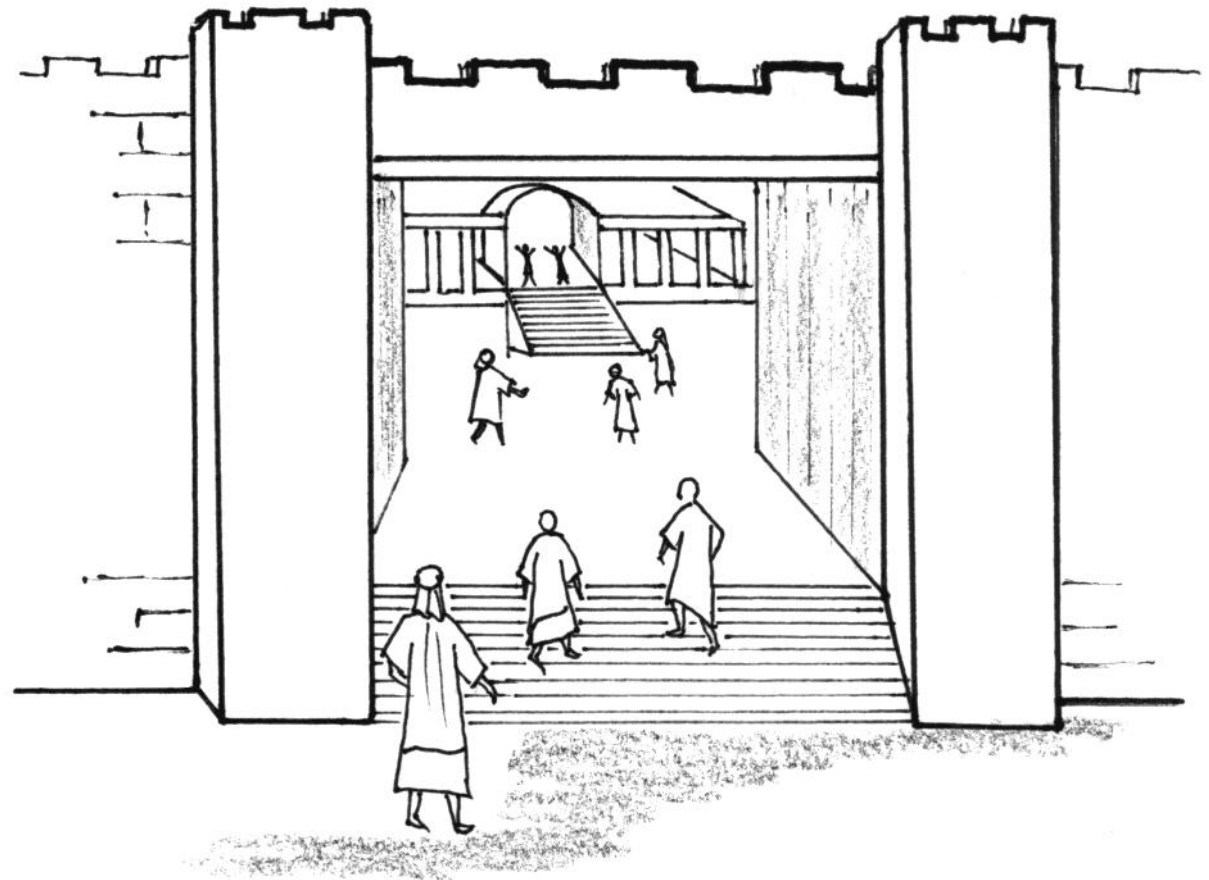
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LUKE 1:5-56
THE ANGEL VISITS ZECHARIAH AND MARY
File no. 101

God did not speak to His people during the four hundred years between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

His people would go to the temple to hear God's word, make their sacrifices and pray.

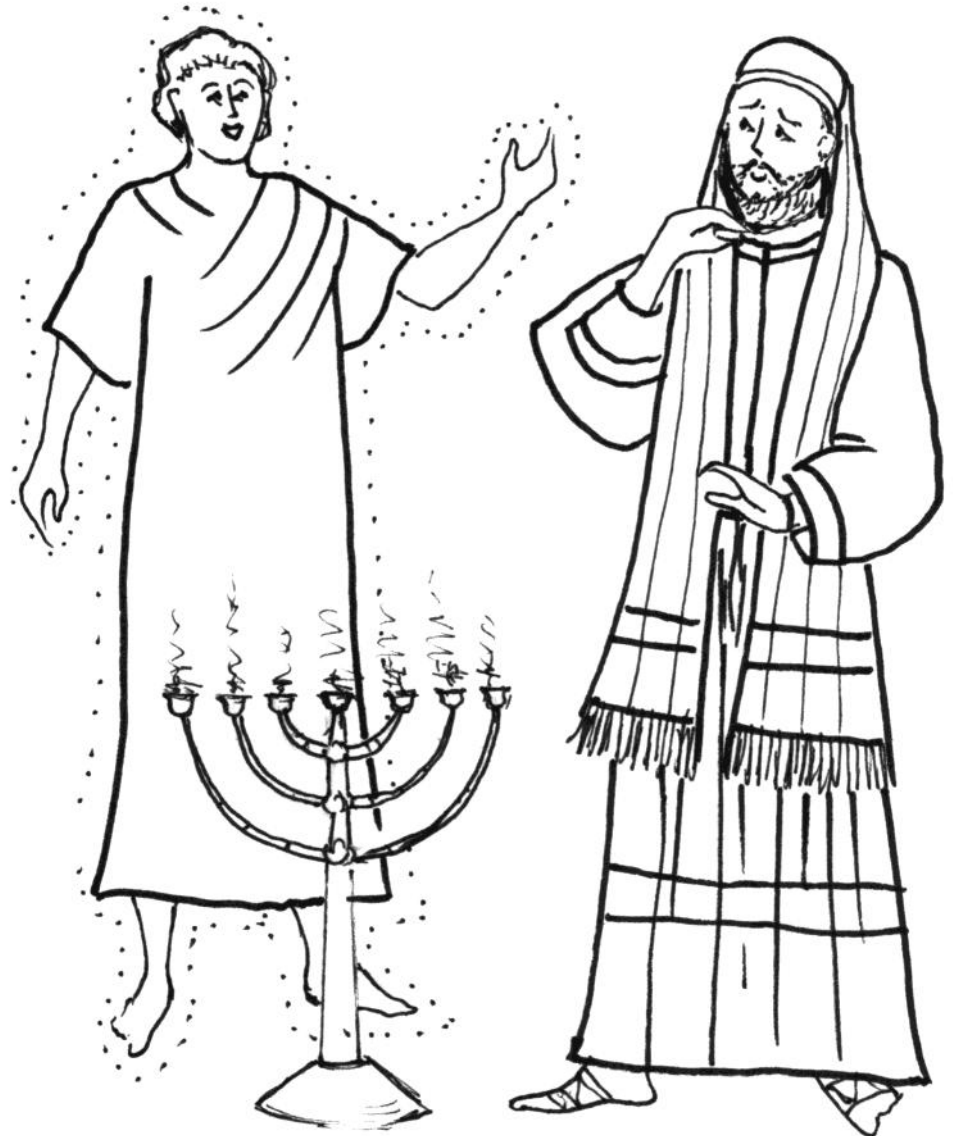


**Then one day
when Zechariah, a priest,
went into the temple to burn incense,
an angel of the Lord appeared to him.
Zechariah was afraid.**

**‘Don’t be afraid’,
said the angel,
‘I have come to tell you
that your prayer has been answered.
Your wife will have a son,
and you will name him John.
He will be filled with the Holy Spirit
and he will make people
ready for the Lord.’**

**Zechariah could not believe him.
He thought that he and his wife
were too old to have children.**

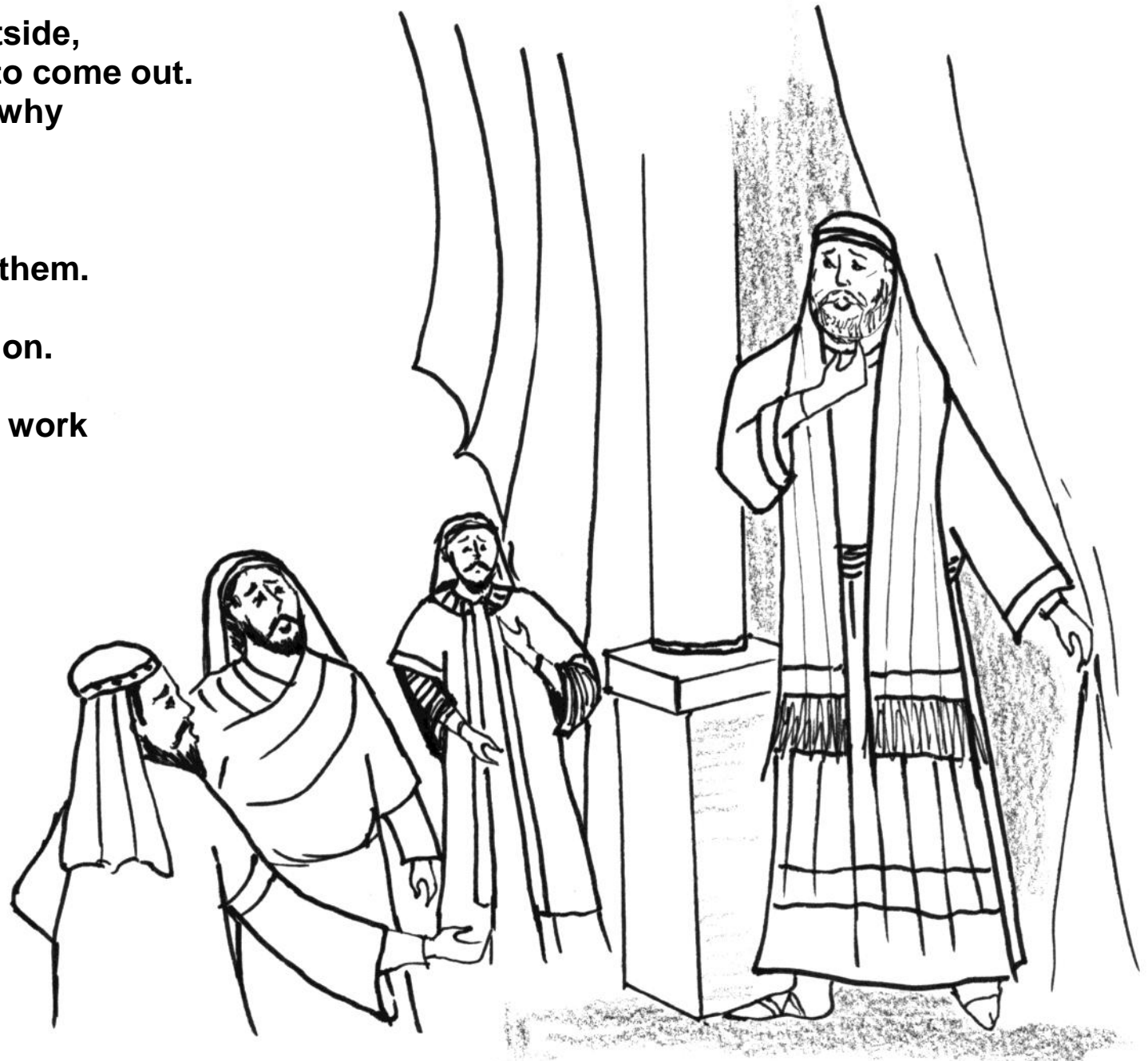
**‘You don’t believe me,’
said the angel.
‘I am Gabriel
and I stand in God’s presence.
God has sent me to tell you
this good news.
You will not be able to speak
until your baby is born.’**



God's people were outside,
waiting for Zechariah to come out.
They were wondering why
he was taking so long.

When he did come,
he could not speak to them.
The people realised
that he had seen a vision.

Zechariah finished his work
at the temple
and went home.



**Some time later
Elizabeth, Zechariah's wife,
was going to have a baby.**

**God had heard their prayer for Israel.
He was giving them a child
who would prepare the way
for Christ's coming.**



**Several months later
God sent the angel Gabriel
to speak to Mary.**

**He said,
'The Lord has blessed you
and is with you.'**

**'What does this mean?'
Mary wondered.**

**'Don't be afraid,' said the angel.
'You will have a son
and you will call Him Jesus.
God will give Him
the throne of His father David
and He will rule over God's people
forever.'**

'How can this happen?' asked Mary

**'The Holy Spirit will come upon you.'
said the angel.
'The child born to you will be holy.
He will be called the Son of God.'**

**Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant.
Let this happen to me just as you say.'**

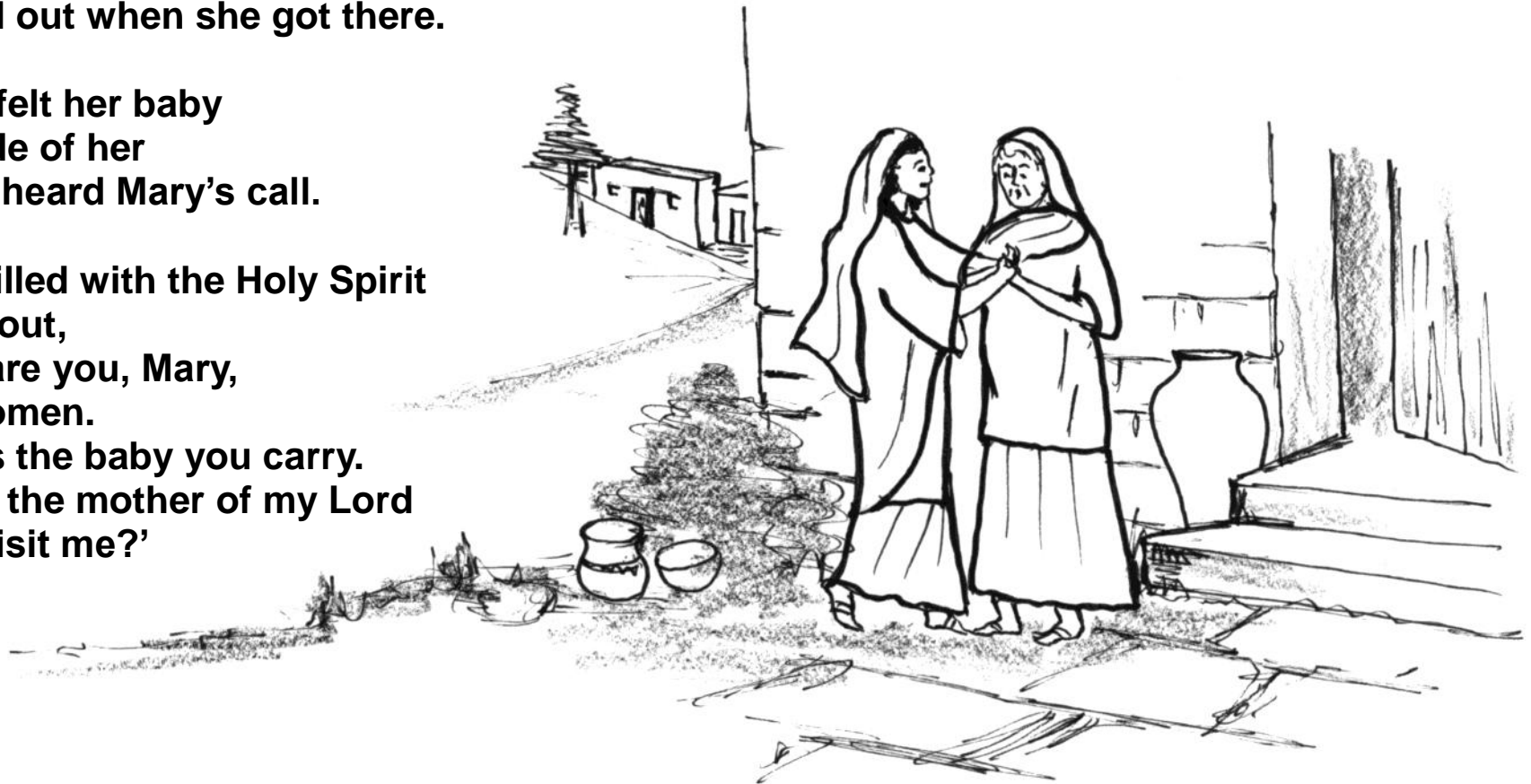


**The angel also told Mary
that her cousin, Elizabeth,
was going to have a baby.
She was very old,
but nothing was too hard for God.**

**Straight away
Mary went to Elizabeth's home
in the hill country.
She called out when she got there.**

**Elizabeth felt her baby
jump inside of her
when she heard Mary's call.**

**She was filled with the Holy Spirit
and cried out,
'Blessed are you, Mary,
among women.
Blessed is the baby you carry.
Why does the mother of my Lord
come to visit me?'**



**Mary was also filled with joy
and sang a song to the Lord.**

**'My soul praises the Lord.
God has been kind to me.
God gives mercy
to those who worship Him.
God has done
what He promised to Abraham.'**



