

A Special Boy Named John
by Patricia Middleton

Cast:

Narrator

Zechariah

Elizabeth

Mary

Angel

Extra People (combine lines as needed)

Narrator: A priest named Zechariah had a wife named Elizabeth. They did what was right. But they had no children, and they were both very old.

Zechariah: It is my day to serve in God's temple. (sees Angel and is scared)

Angel: Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard.

Zechariah: It has?

Angel: Elizabeth will have a child, and you must name him John.

Zechariah: John? Why John?

Angel: He will be important in the Lord's eyes. He must never drink wine.

Zechariah: Alright.

Angel: He will be filled with the Holy Spirit and he will prepare the way for the Lord.

Zechariah: How can I be sure of what you say? My wife and I are old.

Angel: I am Gabriel. I serve God. I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.

Zechariah: I know, but...

Angel: And now you will have to be silent. You will not be able to speak until after John is born. That's because you did not believe my words. They will come true when the time is right. (exits)

Zechariah: (mimes being unable to speak, extras enter)

Person 1: I wonder why Zechariah is staying in the temple so long.

Person 2: Look, there he is!

Zechariah: (shows them he cannot speak)

Person 3: Why can't you talk, Zechariah?

Zechariah: (gestures)

Person 4: You saw a vision?

Zechariah: (nods)

Person 5: Quick, let's go find something for you to write on so you can tell us all about it!
(Zechariah and people exit)

Narrator: After this, Elizabeth became pregnant. God then sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth. He was sent to Mary, who was engaged to Joseph.

(enter Mary and Angel)

Angel: The Lord has given you special favor. He is with you.

Mary: (frightened) What do you mean?

Angel: Do not be afraid, Mary. God is pleased with you. You will give birth to a son. You must name him Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High God.

Mary: How can this happen? I am not married.

Angel: The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of God will cover you. Nothing is impossible with God.

Mary: I will serve the Lord.

(Angel exits)

Narrator: Mary went to Zechariah's and Elizabeth's home.

(Elizabeth enters)

Mary: Hello, Elizabeth!

Elizabeth: God has blessed you and the child you will have! As soon as I heard your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy.

Mary: My soul gives glory to the Lord. My spirit delights in God my Savior. He has remembered me even though I am not important. From now on all people will call me blessed. (Mary hugs Elizabeth)

Narrator: Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months. Then she returned home. (Mary exits) The time came for Elizabeth to have her baby.

(People and Zechariah enter)

Elizabeth: (holds out baby doll) Look, I have a son!

Person 5: The Lord has been very kind you!

Person 6: We are happy for you!

Person 7: You should call him Zechariah, like his father!

Elizabeth: No! He must be called John.

Person 8: There's no one named John in your family!

Person 9: Zechariah, what do you think?

Person 10: Give him something to write on! (Person hands Zechariah the chalkboard and chalk)

Zechariah: (writes "His name is John.")

Person 11: Okay, if that's what you want.

Zechariah: It is.

Person 12: You can talk!

Zechariah: Give praise to the Lord, God of Israel! He has come and set his people free.

Person 13: This is going to be a special little boy!

Narrator: The child grew up, and his spirit became strong. He went to the countryside by the Jordan River. There he preached that people should be baptized and turn away from sin and God would forgive them. This fulfilled what Isaiah said.

All: A messenger is calling out, "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD. Make a straight road through it for our God." Isaiah 40:3