



# CHAPTER 1

FANCY A CHAT?





# GOOD EVENING,

and a very warm welcome to my

## MARVELLOUS STORY.

My name is Luke. Dr Luke, actually.

And I have been carefully investigating

a series of mysterious events. And because I'm

a bit of a **NERD**, I've decided to write all

of my investigations down, just for you. Lots

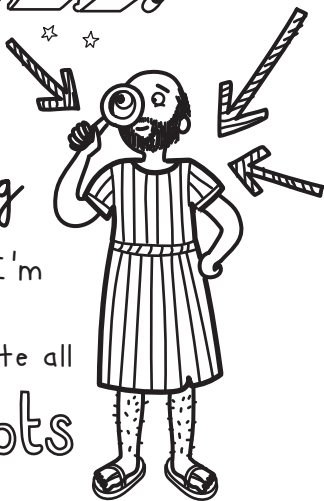
of other people have tried to write it all down before,

but I want you to hear my side of the



SO,

it all starts with a woman called Elizabeth.



# FACT FILE



NAME: Elizabeth

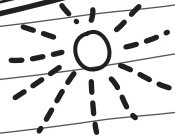
FAMILY: Zechariah (husband)

Mary (cousin)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 0

AGE: Very old

LOCATION: Lives in a little house up a hill in Judea



# FACT FILE



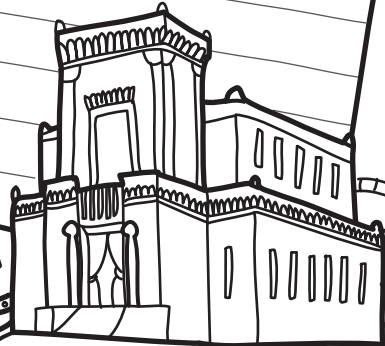
NAME: Zechariah

FAMILY: Elizabeth (wife)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 0

AGE: Very old

LOCATION: Very important Temple in Jerusalem



Elizabeth was Very old. She was married to

Zechariah (who was also very old), who was a kind of  
special religious leader **GUY** and he worked with a group

of other special vicars who took it in turns to burn  
'smelly 'stuff' in the **TEMPLE**

(kind of like a Jewish church). **ANYWAY** it was

Zechariah's turn to do the burning (he burned incense  
— that's the 'smelly 'stuff' — as a way of helping people

to **WORSHIP** God) and while he was inside on his  
own, something

**ABSOLUTELY**  
"TERRIFYING" happened.

A large, glowing, bright man-shaped thing appeared out  
of nowhere and said,



"DON'T BE  
SCARED."

Ha ha. "Don't be scared"??

I mean, SERIOUSLY

a big glowing man just appeared  
and fancied a chat!

Zechariah was **TERRIFIED**,


**FROZEN** to the spot,





and when he heard what

the man had to say he just



couldn't believe his

?? "ears?" ??

The man said, "You and your wife are going to have a  **BABY** called **John**." Zechariah thought this guy was **crazy**, and pretty much told him so — which was a bit of a mistake. **oops**.

Because then the man introduced himself as the  **ANGEL GABRIEL**  (still scary!) and told Zechariah he'd not be able to  talk  until John was born.

**NOTE TO SELF** — always listen to what angels say,  
**AND DO AS TOLD.**

As a  **Doctor** I can tell you that I'd have thought it all sounded a bit **crazy** too, I mean super **old people** don't just suddenly start having **babies**.   
It doesn't **WORK** that way!



Poor Zechariah had to invent his **own** version of

s i g n l a n g u a g e

so that he could tell everyone what had happened to him.



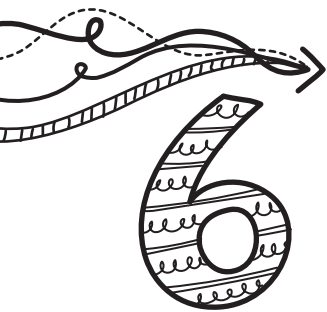
When he **FINALLY** got home to Elizabeth and

managed to wave his arms around enough so that she could



understand what had happened, she was even more

**AMAZED** than he was.



# 6 months later

the **ANGEL GABRIEL** was out and about again, only this time he was in a **TINY** town called **N**azareth, having a chat with a woman called





He was telling her all sorts of *lovely* things  
(that God had told him to say), so he couldn't understand  
why Mary seemed SO SCARED. I mean, what's

scary about being told that God

♥ really likes you, ♥

that he's with you

and that you're going to have A BABY and  
God's going to be the DAD... and you have to call him

JESUS?

That's not scary at all... if

you're the angel Gabriel. Gabriel also said, "Oh, by the way,

your cousin Elizabeth is having a BABY too."

Mary took a DEEP BREATH and calmly said, "OK.

If it's what God wants, then I'LL DO IT. She must've  
been SUPER brave.

MARY went to see Elizabeth and she was definitely pregnant, either that or she'd eaten a GIANT FOOTBALL for breakfast. Elizabeth was <sup>mmmmmm</sup>SO EXCITED



to see Mary that both she and baby John JUMPED up and down for JOY, and Mary started to dance and sing:

God is SO GOOD, I can hardly believe it

Why'd he choose me, I'm really not a good fit

But he has blessed me, because he is epic

And I will praise him, 'cos he's FANTASTIC



He's **SO** good, he's **SO** kind

I can't believe he had me on his mind

He's **SO AWESOME**, he's **SO STRONG**

It's amazing he's <sup>♥ ♥ ♥</sup>loved us all for so long

God is **SO GOOD**, I can hardly believe it,

He has chosen **ME**, so now I'll do my bit

He's my helper, he's my **LORD**

He is **GOD**, he's the Lord of all!

**EVENTUALLY**

, Elizabeth had her baby and everyone told her she should call him

**ZECHARIAH**

after his dad. Elizabeth tried to tell them all she wanted to call him **John**, but they were having

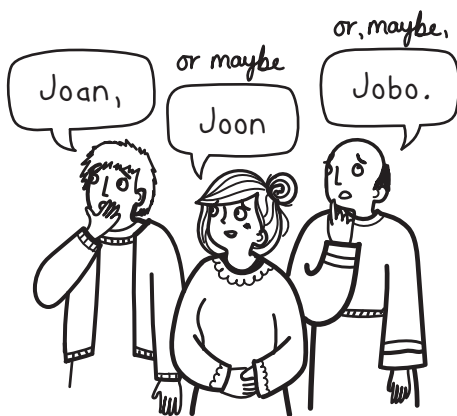
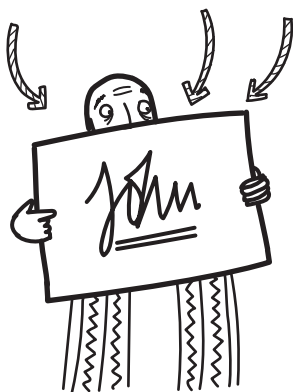
**NONE**

OF IT. Zechariah started waving his arms about like

**CRAZY** again and everyone stared at him.

**WEIRDO**.

Then he grabbed something to write on and scribbled down something that looked vaguely like



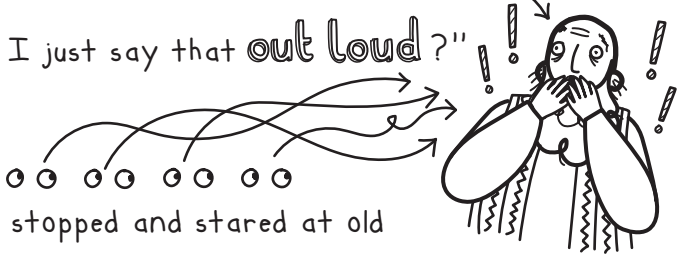
But eventually someone said, "Does that say **John**?"

**PRAISE GOD!** At that moment Zechariah

suddenly blurted out: "John! John! John! His name is

John!" then he pulled a rather **ODD** face and said,

"Hey! Did I just say that **out loud**?"



Everyone stopped and stared at old

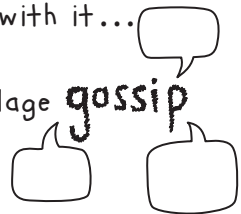
Zechariah. He hadn't said a **SINGLE** word for **9** whole

months (not even a **THANK YOU** – how rude!) and then

all of a **SUDDEN** he could speak again. **Super**  
**CONFUSING** eh? But the people began to wonder...


There must be something **special** about this John baby,  
maybe God might've had something to do with it...

**Baby John** became the subject of village **gossip**  
pretty quickly!



Zechariah was SO **EXCITED** at being able to talk again,

that words just wouldn't *stop*  
*coming out*  
*of his mouth.*

He was  **happy**, *sorry*, **EXCITED**, **exhausted**  
and **AMAZED** all at once.

God has done it again!

He's really *Saving*  us all

Just like he said he would

He **NEVER** breaks a promise.

He's **RESCUING** us,

He's **FORGIVING** us,

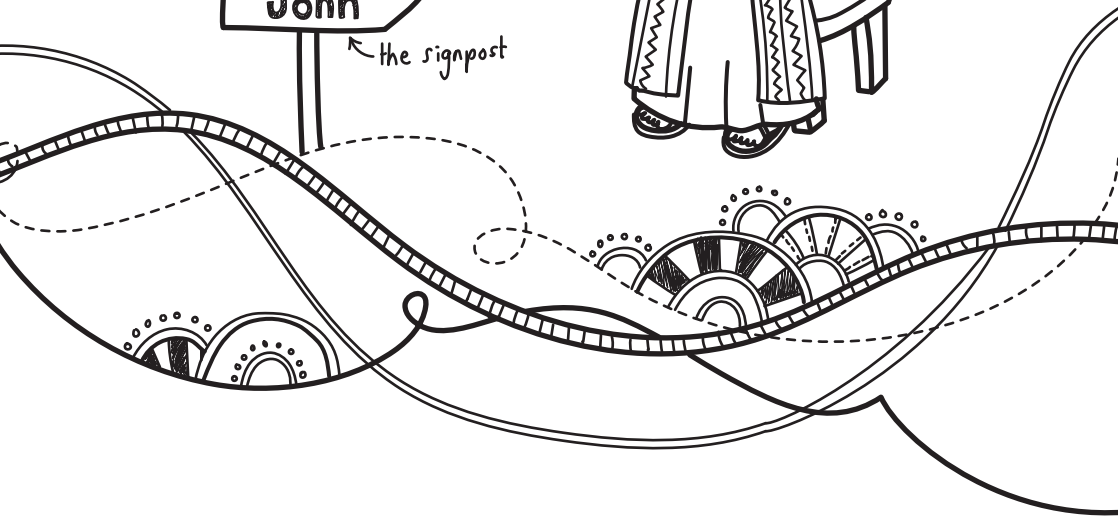
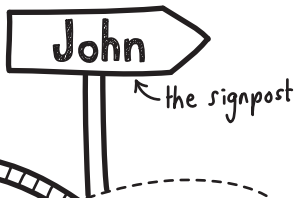
He's  **LOVING**  us,

He's **AMAZING!**

"And John," (Zechariah **"BOUNCED"** him on his  
knee as he said this),


you're going to be the start  
of it **ALL**! You're going to tell  
people what's coming, you're  
going to be like a *signpost*.

(Very **INSPIRATIONAL**  
comment from a father there.)



As John grew up, he was still a  **HOT TOPIC**

in the local **gossip** charts, especially when he decided

to go off and live in the desert, wear **CAMEL** hair 

and eat only **HONEY** and  insects. Tasty. How was he

supposed to be a  in the desert? No one

ever even went there!