

The Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1: 57-80)

Verse to memorize : (Luke 1: 79)

"Our God will guide our steps into the path of peace."

The Story :

When the time came for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbours and relatives all rejoiced with her. When the baby was one week old, there was a special celebration to circumcise the baby and give him a name. They were going to name him Zechariah, after his father, but Elizabeth said: "No. His name is to be John." (John means: The Lord is gracious) They were all astonished and said to her: "But there is no one in your family with this name." Then they asked Zechariah what name he would like the boy to have. He made signs to ask for his writing tablet, as he still could not speak. He wrote: "His name is John." How surprised they all were. At that very moment, Zechariah's speech returned and he began to thank and praise God for all His goodness.

Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and said: "Praise the Lord, for He has kept His promises, made so long ago. The long waiting is over and God will shine on us with His presence. His Rescuer will guide us into the ways of peace." Then he smiled as he looked down at John and said: "You, my little child, will be a prophet of God. You will go ahead of the Lord to bring the message of His love and forgiveness to His people and prepare them for His coming."



John grew and developed in body and spirit.

Notes on this Story :

- † Zechariah and Elizabeth had John when they were quite old. They were so old that Zechariah even doubted the angel Gabriel when he first told him. *Do not give up and continue to pray. Sooner or later, and at the right time, God will respond to you.*
- † Zechariah and Elizabeth wished to have just a normal child. God gave them John. Jesus said about John: "I assure you that John the Baptist is greater than any man who has ever lived." (Matthew 11:11) *If you love and trust God, He will give you even more than you wish.*