

Background Scripture: Luke 1:5-23, 57-80

Print Passage: Luke 1:67-80



L3 Laying the Groundwork

REFLECT



One day, Dustin and Destiny were walking home from school. At one point in their travels, Dustin asked Destiny, “Do you ever wonder why our names don’t rhyme like other twins’ names? You know what I mean . . . like, Dane and Jane or Ricky and Nicky?” Destiny pondered the question for a moment, then replied, “You know, you’re right. I never thought about why our names don’t rhyme. Our names only begin with the same letter. I wonder if the letter D has a special meaning. When we get home, you should ask Mom.”

On arriving at home, Dustin and Destiny walked into the house and put down their backpacks. They washed their hands and approached the table, where Mom had prepared a snack. Dustin asked the question as they ate and chatted with Mom about their school day. “Mom, how come our names don’t rhyme like other twins’ names?” Mom replied, “Well, while in my womb, you both were busy babies. You would constantly move and kick around in there. I told myself that these babies are so active; I know they are destined to be great. The doctor told me I was having a boy and a girl, so I began researching the meaning of names. *Dustin* means ‘a strong-hearted leader.’ *Destiny* means ‘lucky fortune or fate.’ Those names matched what I felt in my spirit about you. I knew you both would be strong-hearted leaders, and be blessed with God’s plan for your lives.”

Destiny replied, “Oh, wow, Mom! You put a lot of thought into our names. Now, I’m extremely proud to be named Destiny. I know for sure I’m destined to be great!” Dustin said, “Yeah, you’re right, Destiny. I, too, am proud to be named Dustin. I’m a strong-hearted leader. But, most importantly, I am a man after God’s own heart.”



[Zechariah said to John,] “You, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.” (Luke 1:76-77)



INSPECT

Luke 1:67-80

67 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: **68** “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. **69** He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David **70** (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), **71** salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— **72** to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, **73** the oath he swore to our father Abraham: **74** to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear **75** in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. **76** And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, **77** to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, **78** because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven **79** to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” **80** And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

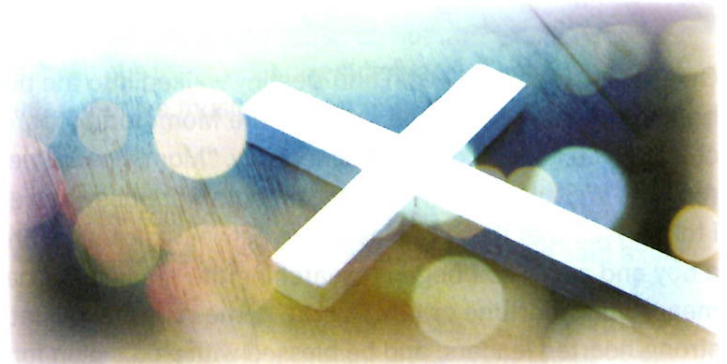


INTERSECT

TODAY'S BIBLE PASSAGE TELLS ABOUT THE PROPHECY AND PRAISE OF ZECHARIAH. Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, who told people what would happen. Zechariah shouted praises to the Lord: *Give God thanks for all He has done! God rescued the people of Israel and gave them freedom from oppression!* Zechariah knew the magnitude of God's greatness and praised Him mightily for it all.

Zechariah also proclaimed the coming of Jesus Christ! He knew that salvation was soon to come through the holy King! Zechariah spoke about the protection and mercy of God. God would save Israel from their enemies. God forgave their ancestors and kept His promise to Abraham. Zechariah encouraged Israel to serve God without fear. He admonished them to live holy and righteous lives before God all their days.

Zechariah prophesied the life of his son, John. He said, “And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, . . . through the forgiveness of their sins” (verses 76, 77). John introduced Israel to the coming of Jesus Christ. He preached that God would forgive the sins of Israel. Salvation was coming! John prepared the people. He taught that God would give light to those in darkness and guide them to peace. John grew up and became strong in spirit.



Inside Out



Respond to the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

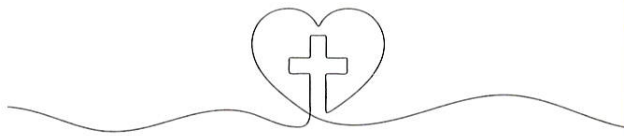
1. How did John prepare the way for Jesus?
2. How has Jesus provided for you in the past?
3. Do you feel God's presence today?



THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

John preached the promises of God to Israel. He reminded them that God is the light out of darkness and the way to peace. Was there ever a dark time in your life? Did God bring about peace to your situation? Remember that God is faithful

and keeps His promises to you. Trust God in all you do; He will guide you along the way.



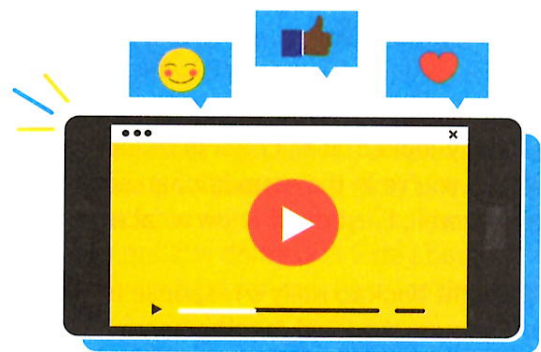
CONNECT

Zechariah prophesied on the life of his son, John. He knew that John was destined for greatness. At some point this week, speak with a parent or caregiver about the story of your birth. What hopes did your family have for you when you were born? What God-given talent or role are you already fulfilling? What are people's hopes for you now? What hopes and plans do you have for your future?



STEPPING OUT!

John said that God will guide our feet into the path of peace. What does "peace" mean to you? How has God provided peace in your life? Create artwork based on the word *peace*. Let your artwork be an exploration of peace as well as thanksgiving for God's provision.



MEDIA MISSION

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9NgHAy-0yM> to get more information about John the Baptist. Make a note of something you learned in the video and share it with the class.

