

SONG 3

His Name Is John – Zacharias & Elisabeth

Read: Luke 1:57–80

HYMN Song + film · premieres Sunday, November 22

CAROL Song · releases Sunday, November 22

KNOW THE SETTING

When the son was born, Elisabeth's "neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her" (Luke 1:58).

"On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child" (Luke 1:59), and they expected to name him after his father.

WHO SPEAKS

- Elisabeth (verse 60)
- Neighbors and relatives (verse 61)
- Zacharias, first in writing (verse 63), then "filled with the Holy Ghost" (Luke 1:67) in prophecy (verses 68–79)

LOOK CLOSER

- Elisabeth spoke first: "Not so; but he shall be called John" (Luke 1:60). Luke does not say how she knew the name. Let the text's silence stand.
- Zacharias "asked for a writing table, and wrote" (Luke 1:63). Then "his mouth was opened immediately" (Luke 1:64), and his first recorded words praised God, and the silence ended just as Gabriel had said (Luke 1:20).
- His prophecy speaks first of the Lord who "hath visited and redeemed his people" (Luke 1:68), and only then of his son: "thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways" (Luke 1:76).

CONNECT THE SCRIPTURES

- **Isaiah 40:3:** "Prepare ye the way of the LORD" (Isaiah 40:3)
- **John 1:6–7:** "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John" (John 1:6)
- **John 3:30:** John later said of Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

What this reveals about God. God fulfills His promises in His own time. Zacharias praised "the tender mercy of our God" (Luke 1:78).

PONDER

1. The neighbors expected tradition, but Elisabeth and Zacharias followed what God had said. When does faithfulness mean doing what others don't expect?
2. After months of silence, Zacharias's first words praised God. What would your first words be?
3. John's purpose was to point to Someone greater. How can you point others toward Christ?

TALK ABOUT IT

The people asked, "What manner of child shall this be!" (Luke 1:66) What hopes do you hold for the children in your life?

SING THE VERSE

"His tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God" (Luke 1:64)

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