



FOREMOTHERS ELISABETH & MARY

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson our young daughters will be able to...

1. Mention at least one characteristic of our foremother Elisabeth, the mother of John the Baptist
2. Mention at least one characteristic of our foremother Mary, the mother of Jesus
3. Answer correctly: What does it mean to be barren?
4. Answer correctly: Which people did Gabriel say that their hearts would turn to the Most High after Zacharias son's birth?
5. Expound upon: What sort of woman must Elisabeth have been, to know the purpose and the trials her son would go through?
6. Expound upon: What sort of woman must Mary have been, to know the purpose of her son and the trials her son had to go through?
7. Answer correctly: Who are the parents of our forefather and saviour, Jesus?

TEACH:

Elisabeth

1. Elisabeth was the wife of Zacharias the priest, from the tribe of Levi. They both lived during the Roman captivity under the rule of Herod. They were both righteous people of God; walking in all his laws, statutes, and commandments.

Luke 1:5-6 (KJVA 1611)

[5] There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

[6] And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

2. They had no child; Elisabeth was barren until their old age.

Luke 1:7 (KJVA 1611)

And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

Questions:

- What does it mean to be barren?
 - What comes to mind when you hear that they both kept the laws, yet Elisabeth was barren? *(Use this as an opportunity to explain that sometimes people that are righteous can be held back from certain blessings until much later in life.)*
3. The time came for Zacharias' wife to have a child. When he was doing his work, an angel of the LORD appeared unto him to give the good news.



Luke 1:8-14 (KJVA 1611)

[8] And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

[9] According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

[10] And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

[11] And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

[12] And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

[13] But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

[14] And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

4. The angel told Zacharias about the wonderful purpose that his child would fulfil, turning our minds back to the Most High. Zacharias was in disbelief because of how old he was, and the angel took away his speech until his son would be born.

Luke 1:16-23 (KJVA 1611)

[16] And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

[17] And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

[18] And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

[19] And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

[20] And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

[21] And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

[22] And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

[23] And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

Question:

- Which people did Gabriel say that their hearts would turn to the Most High after Zacharias son's birth?
- 5. Elizabeth conceived and hid herself for 5 months and was pleased that the LORD came to remove her reproach of being barren. *As a nation, we value marriage and family, greatly!*



While this was happening, another child was also on the way to be conceived, and to fulfil his purpose for the children of Israel.

Mary

1. Mary was the wife of Joseph, who was from the tribe of Judah through the lineage of King David. They also lived through the Roman captivity. At the time, Mary was espoused (to be married) to Joseph. The same angel, Gabriel, told Mary that she would conceive a child, and name him Jesus.

Luke 1:26-31 (KJVA 1611)

[26] And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

[27] To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

[28] And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

[29] And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

[30] And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

[31] And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

2. The angel continued to tell Mary about how wonderful her child would be. That she would be having a child according to the laws. But she did not understand how it would come to pass, as she was not yet married at the time. She was unaware of her parents arranging her marriage to Joseph.
(Be sure to emphasise that the Holy Ghost means "laws." Explain using Acts 7:51-53).

Luke 1:32-37 (KJVA 1611)

[32] He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

[33] And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

[34] Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

[35] And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

[35] And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

[36] For with God nothing shall be impossible.

3. Mary visited her cousin Elisabeth, to share the news, and Elisabeth shared her pregnancy news as well. Elisabeth had her child and named him John.



Luke 1:57-60 (KJVA 1611)

[57] Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.

[58] And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.

[59] And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.

[60] And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.

Questions:

- What do you know about John the Baptist?
- What sort of woman must Elisabeth have been, to know the purpose and the trials her son would go through?
- What do you know about Jesus the Christ?
- What sort of woman must Mary have been, to know the purpose of her son and the trials her son had to go through?

4. The same angel also appeared to Mary's husband, Joseph.

Matthew 1:18-25 (KJVA 1611)

[18] Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

[19] Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

[20] But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

[21] And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

[22] Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

[23] Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

[24] Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

[25] And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.

Question:

- Who are the parents of our forefather and saviour Jesus?
(This is to seal in their mind that Christ had parents)



Closing and review:

1. Who were Elisabeth and Mary? Who were their husbands?
2. Which tribes are John and Jesus from?
3. Why were Zacharias and Elisabeth in disbelief that Elisabeth would conceive?
4. Why was Mary in disbelief at first, that she would conceive a child?

End of class.