

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 2
The Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-7,11-13,16-20,24-25,57-64)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord in His omniscience provided that John would be born to prepare the way for His Advent.
- B. John had to prepare the way, or people would not have been ready to believe that the Lord was the promised Messiah when He did come.
- C. People accepted John because of the miracles surrounding his birth (i.e., Elizabeth's giving birth in her old age, and Zacharias made mute until John's name was announced).

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. Do you remember what a prophet is? (A person who speaks for the Lord)
 - 2. And what is a prophecy? (A message from the Lord)
 - 3. Last time you heard 2 prophecies from the book of Isaiah, which is in the Old Testament. Who was Isaiah? (A prophet who lived hundreds of years before the Lord was born)
 - 4. Now I'm going to read a prophecy from the book of Malachi, which is also in the Old Testament. Malachi was a prophet, too, and this is one of the messages he brought from the Lord: "'Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me.'" (Malachi 3:1) Who do you think the messenger is that the Lord would send before Him? It was someone who was born only a few months before the Lord was born. The messenger is John, called John the Baptist. Today we'll read about when John was born.
- B. Tell/Read the Story:
 - 1. Read aloud Luke 1:5-7, 11-13, 16-20, 24-25, 57-64.

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C. Ideas to Discuss

1. What problem did Elizabeth and Zacharias have? (They had no children because Elizabeth was barren; she couldn't have babies.)
2. Who was the special person whom Zacharias saw in the temple and whom Zacharias was afraid of? (The angel, Gabriel)
3. What news did the angel tell to Zacharias? (That Elizabeth would bear a son) What did the angel say the child's name should be? (John)
4. The angel told Zacharias that John would have a special job. What was it? (To go before the Lord and get people ready for Him)
5. Did Zacharias believe that he and Elizabeth could have a son since they were so old? (No) What happened to Zacharias because he didn't believe the angel, Gabriel? (He was mute - unable to speak - until the baby was born.)
6. Jewish baby boys were given a name when they were 8 days old. What name did Elizabeth and Zacharias' relatives (family) think the parents would give to the baby? (Zacharias, like his father)
7. What did Elizabeth tell them? ("He shall be called John.")
8. The relatives didn't believe her, so they asked Zacharias what the baby should be called. What did Zacharias do? (He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John.")
9. What happened as soon as Zacharias wrote, "His name is John"? (He could talk again, and he praised God.)

D. Further Ideas

1. The Lord couldn't have come into the world if John hadn't prepared the way. John told people that the Lord was coming and got them ready to hear the things the Lord would teach them.
2. People listened to John and believed what he said because they thought he was special. Why do you suppose they thought he was special? (Because only someone specially sent by the Lord could have had such an old, old mother; and only the Lord could have made Zacharias mute until the baby John was born and named.)

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. (The first thing Zacharias did when he could talk again was to praise God. Now we can sing a song to praise Him.)
2. "Sing unto the Lord," *First Songs for Little Children*, p.1.
3. "Praise ye our Father, come today with singing," *Hymnal* #127.

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B. Project

4. "HIS NAME IS JOHN" project, designed by Ann Gladish Buss. Each student cuts out figures of Zacharias, Elizabeth, and baby John. Mount Zacharias on a piece of paper with an arched top and glue the writing tablet into his outstretched hand. The teacher or another adult should use a single edge razor blade or utility knife to cut out the slit area in the Elizabeth figure. The baby John can then be slipped into Elizabeth's waiting arms. Just imagine how happy she is to welcome this child!

IV. Teaching Aids

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 5, "Birth of John the Baptist" (Luke 1).

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PROJECT: "HIS NAME IS JOHN"

Materials Needed for Each Student

Scissors

Glue

12 X 18 construction paper cut into arch (purple, blue, or red)

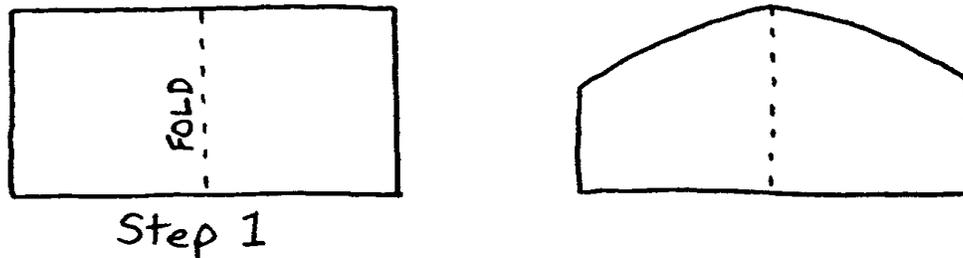
1 photocopied page of figures

1 photocopied text slip, Zacharias name tag, Elizabeth name tag

Optional: glitter, glitter glue, or decorative cord or braid (gold or silver) felt markers

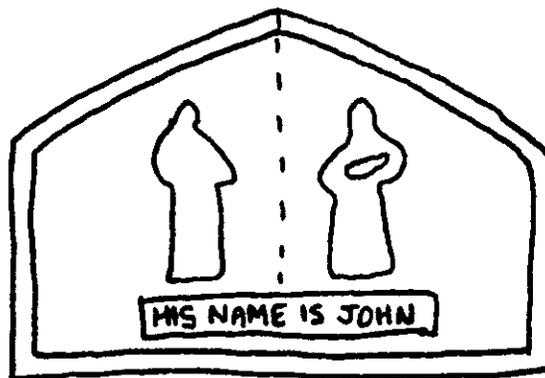
Before Class

1. Photocopy attached text slips, nametags, and page of figures.
2. Optional (and preferable): Cut out slit portion of Elizabeth. (A quick and easy way to do this is to place each page of figures on a stack of newspaper and cut out the slit with a single edge razor blade or utility knife.)
3. Fold sheets of 12 X 18 paper in half as shown, and cut into arch shape:



In Class

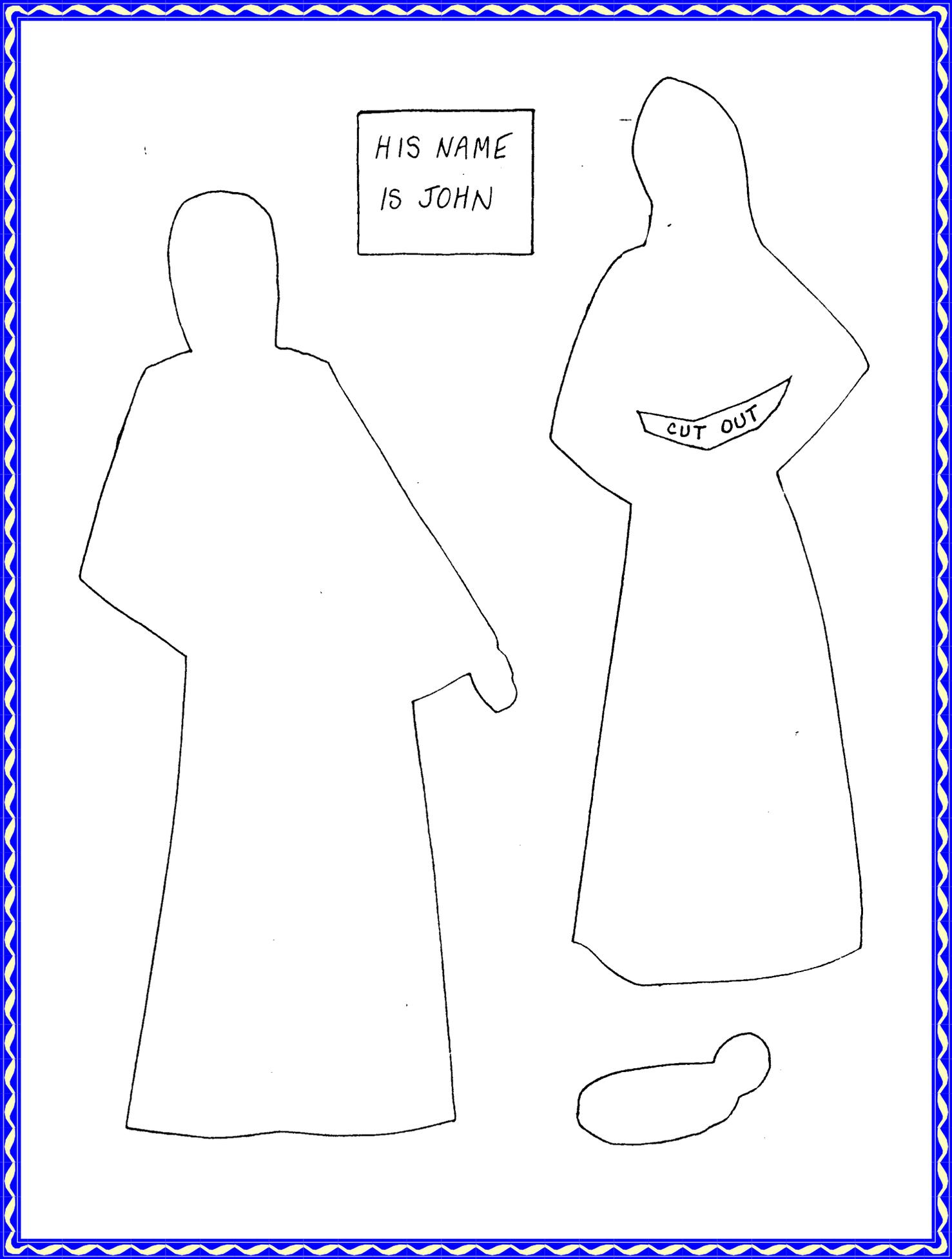
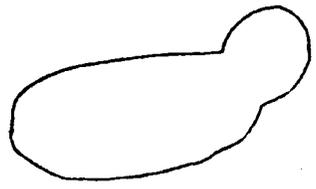
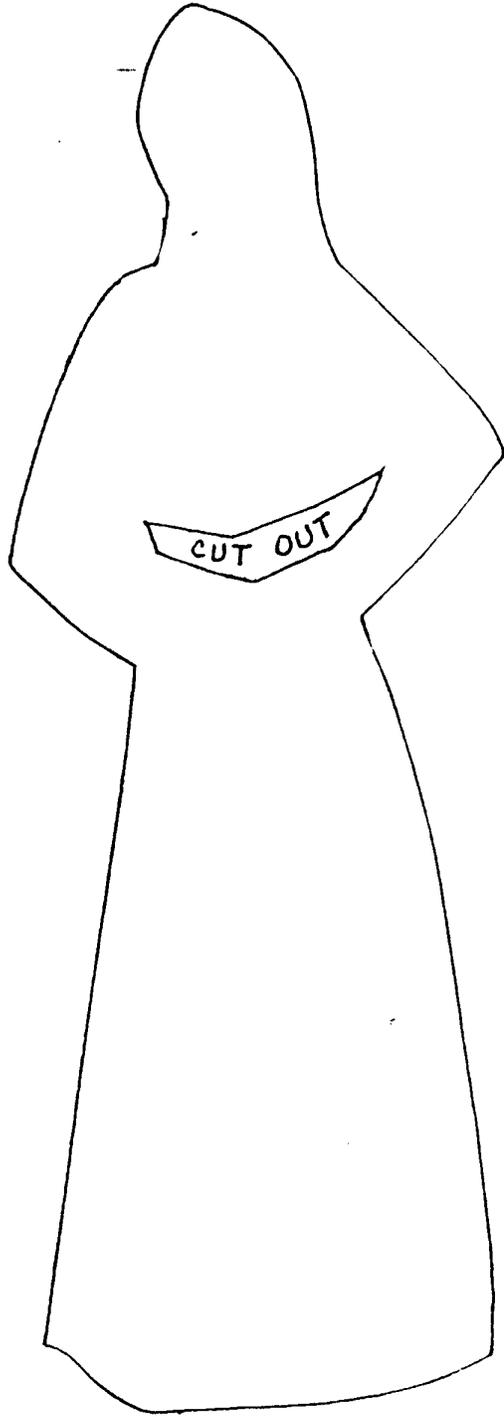
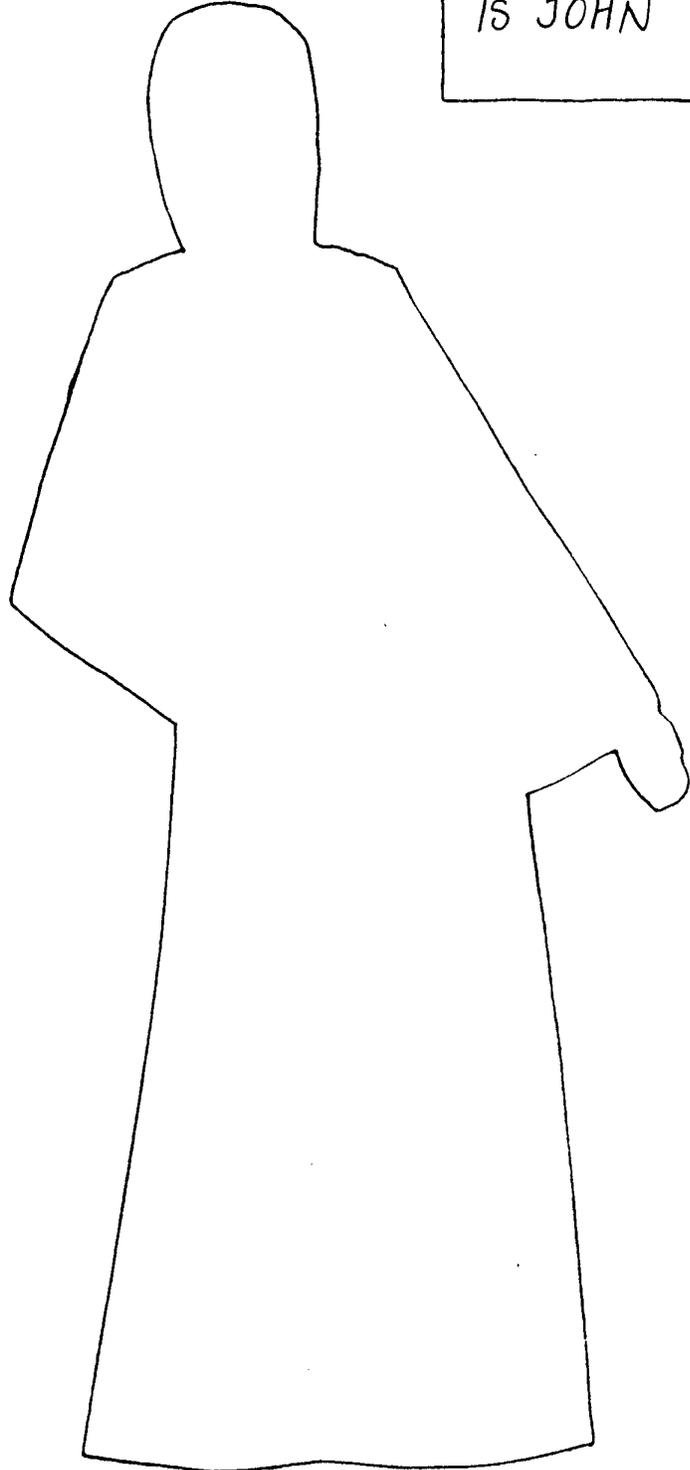
1. Cut out figures. If not done prior to class, cut out slit in Elizabeth.
2. If decorating with glitter or cord border, do it now.
3. Glue Elizabeth and Zacharias to background arch as shown. Do not put glue near or baby won't slide in and out. Slip baby into Elizabeth's arms.



Because of the fold, the arch can stand on its own.

4. Glue the "HIS NAME IS JOHN" writing tablet in Zacharias' outstretched hand.
5. Glue text slip at bottom or write the text: "His name is John."
6. Label Zacharias and Elizabeth by hand, or glue their nametags onto the hems of their garments.

HIS NAME
IS JOHN



HIS NAME IS JOHN

LUKE 1:63

ELIZABETH

ZACHARIAS

HIS NAME IS JOHN

LUKE 1:63

ELIZABETH

ZACHARIAS

HIS NAME IS JOHN

LUKE 1:63

ELIZABETH

ZACHARIAS