



John the Baptist Story

SUPPLIES NEEDED

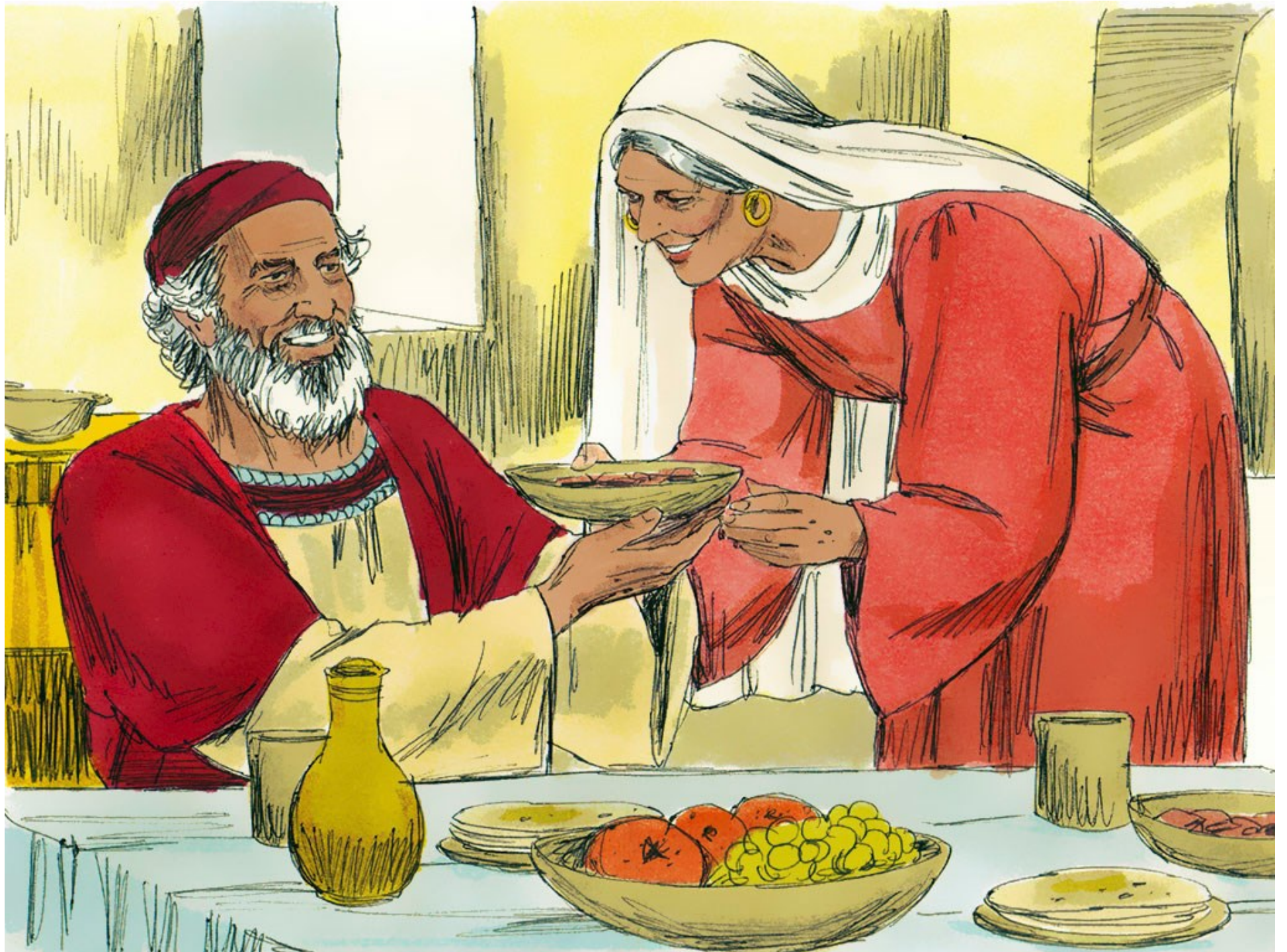
You will need the following:

- 12 Sheets of Printer Paper (8.5" x 11")
- 12 3 mil Laminating [Film](#)

DIRECTIONS

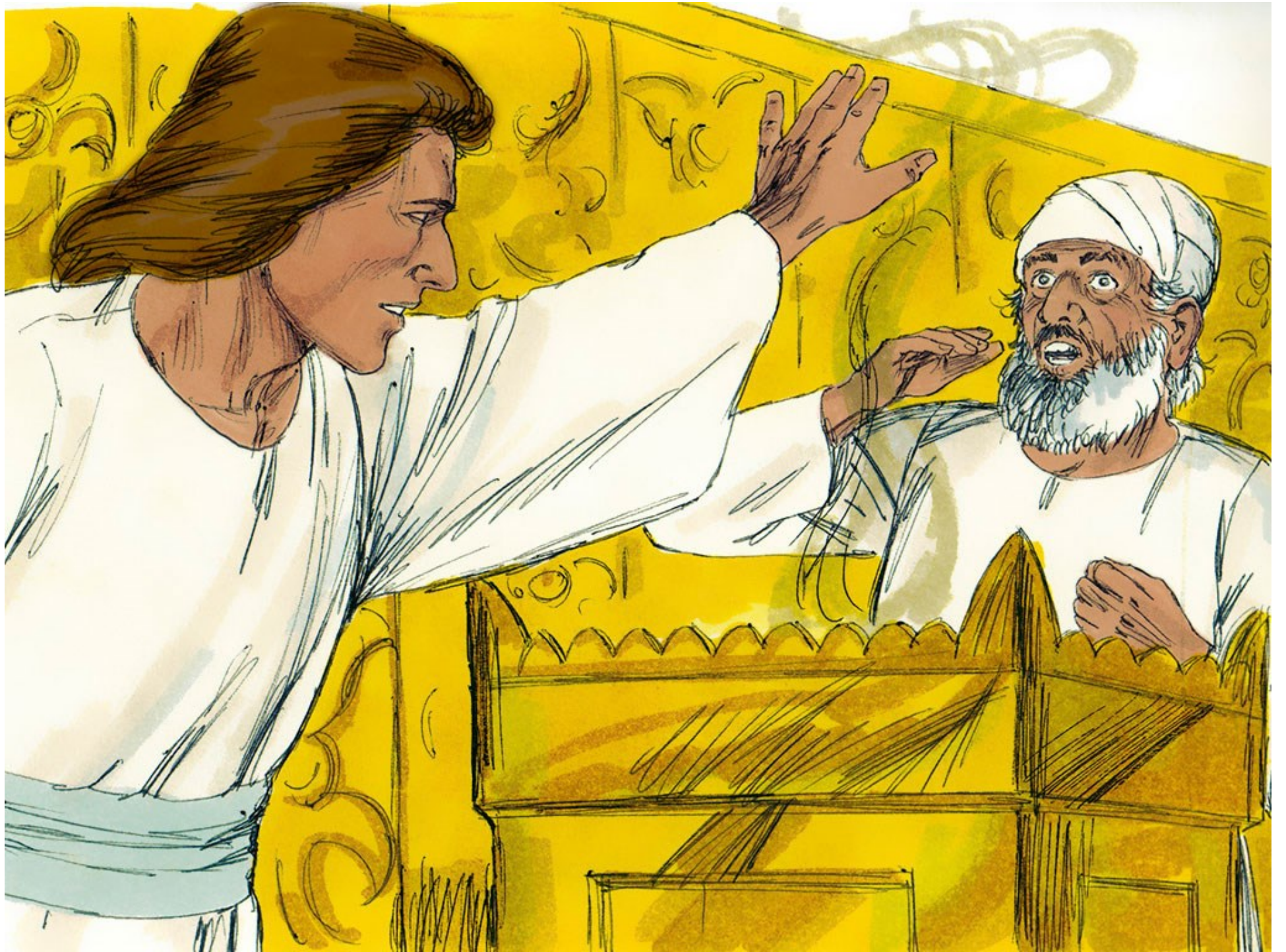
- Print pages 2-25 two-sided on regular printer paper. Laminate each page.
- During class, hold up the pictures while you read the story.
- After the story, give the students the John the Baptist Worksheet to answer the questions.





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- 1 When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth. They had been unable to have children and were both very old.





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- 2 While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing by the incense altar. Zechariah was overwhelmed with fear.





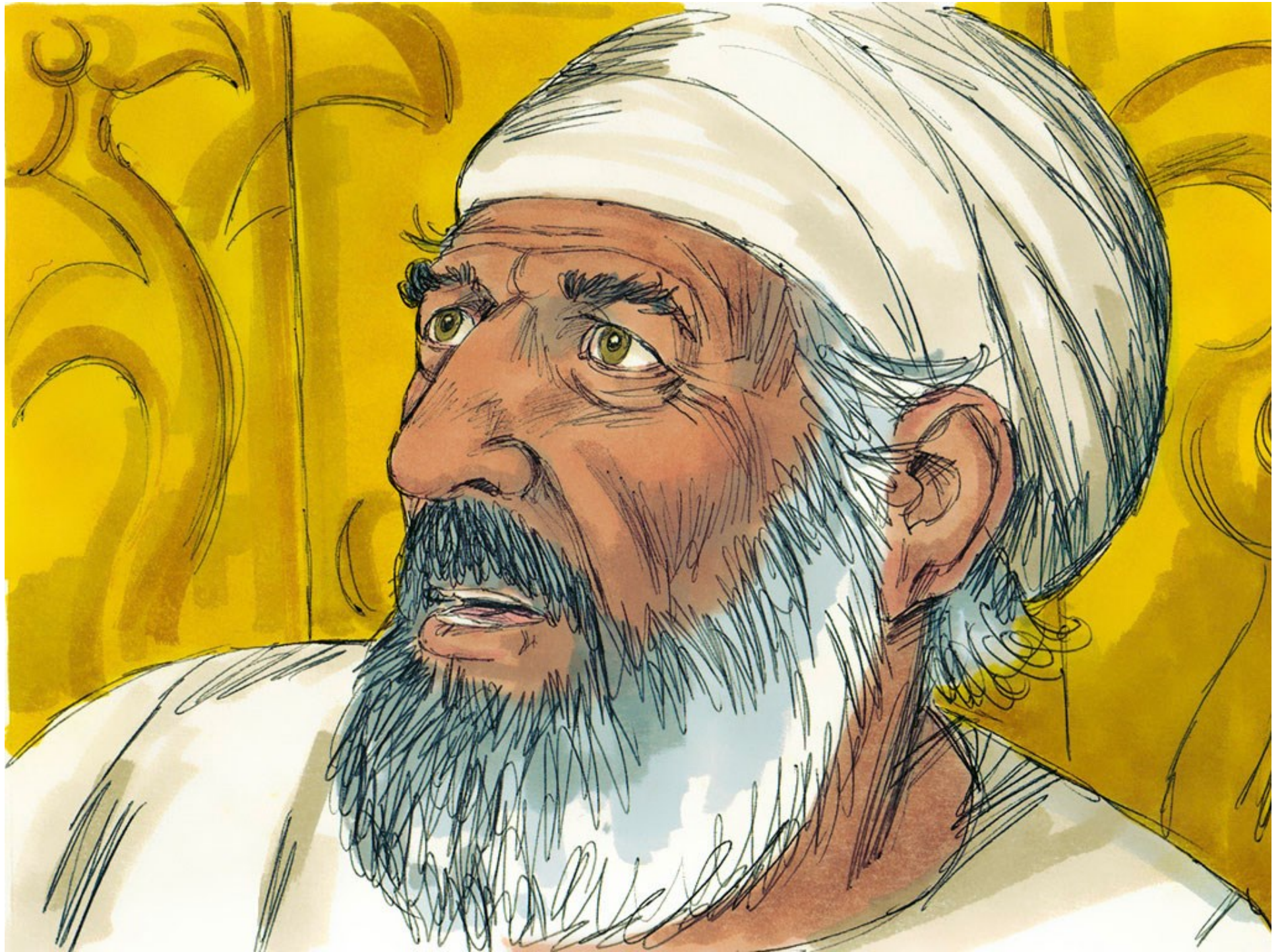
3 'Don't be afraid, Zechariah!' the angel said, 'God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John.'





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- 4 'Your son will be great in the eyes of the Lord,' the angel announced. 'He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. He will be a man with the power of Elijah who will prepare people for the coming of the Lord.'





5 'How can I be sure this will happen?' asked Zechariah. 'I'm an old man, and my wife is also old.'

'I am Gabriel and stand in the very presence of God,' the angel said, 'God sent me to bring you this good news! But since you didn't believe what I said, you will be unable to speak until the child is born.'





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- 6 The people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary and wondering why he was taking so long. When he finally came out out, he couldn't speak to them. They realised from his gestures that he must have seen a vision.





Soon afterward, Elizabeth became pregnant. When Elizabeth was about 6 months pregnant, Mary (the mother of Jesus) went to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

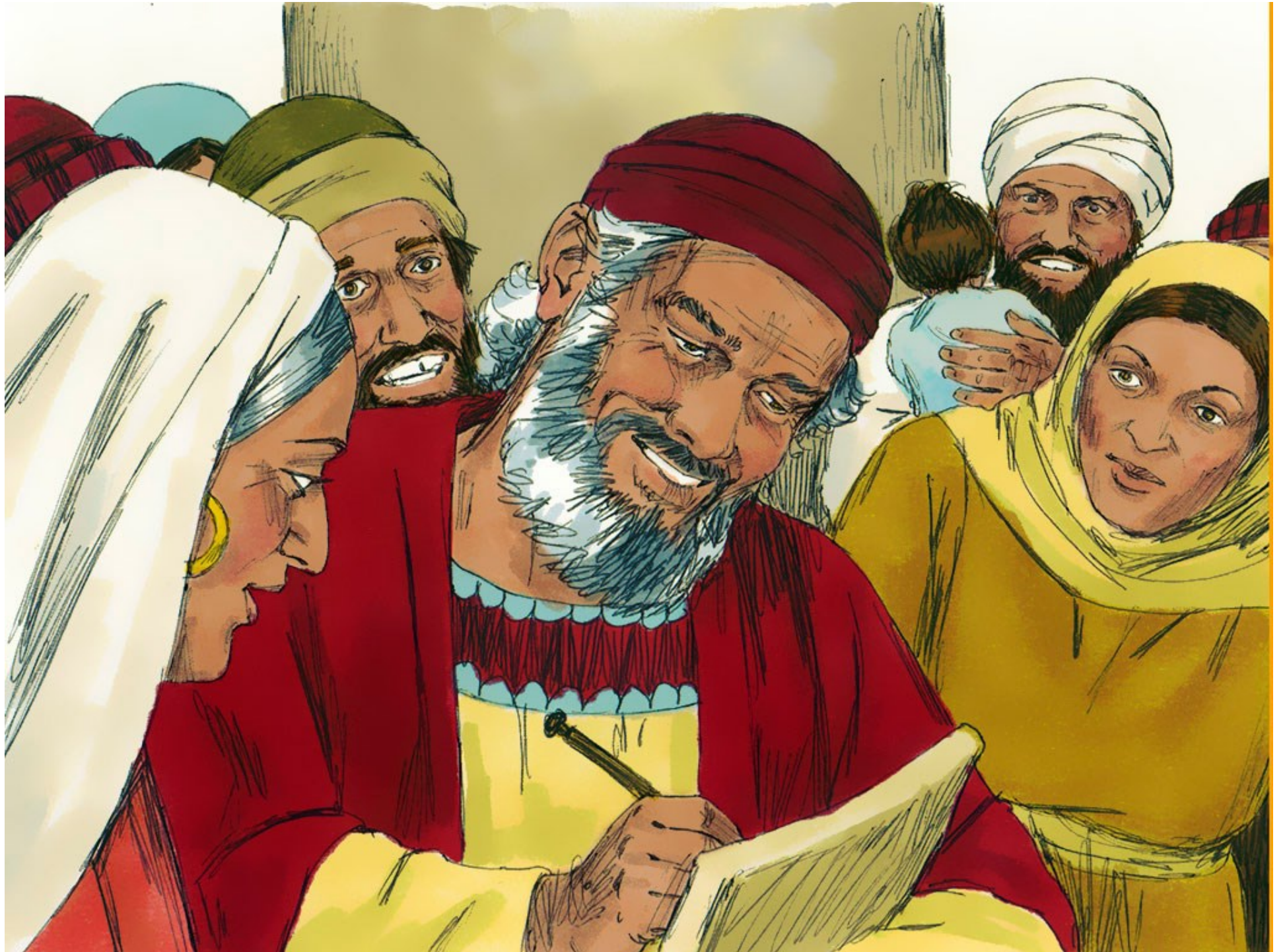
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice Elizabeth exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women Mary, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"



Mary stayed with her cousin Elizabeth for 3 months. Then Elizabeth gave birth to a baby boy. Because Mary and Elizabeth were cousins, their sons would also be cousins.



Then 8 days after their son's birth, Zechariah and Elizabeth took their son to the circumcision ceremony. All of their family and friends wanted to name the baby Zechariah, after his father. But Elizabeth said, "No, his name is John!" Their family was confused, "Why? There is no one in your family by that name."



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- 9 They used gestures to ask the baby's father what he wanted to name him. Zechariah motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone's surprise he wrote, 'His name is John.' Instantly Zechariah could speak again. He began praising God and gave a prophecy about his son (*Luke 1:68-79*).





John grew up and became strong. He lived in the wilderness. His clothing was made of camel hair and he had a leather belt. He ate locust and wild honey.



John was the person the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament had talked about 600 years earlier. Isaiah said he was "a voice crying out in the wilderness preparing the way for the Lord".

John began preaching to people, saying, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near." He was preparing the people for his cousin Jesus.