




CHAPTER 1

FANCY A CHAT?
SAMPLE





GOOD EVENING,

and a very warm welcome to my

MARVELLOUS STORY.

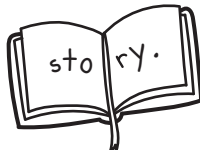
My name is Luke. Dr Luke, actually.

And I have been carefully *investigating* a series of mysterious events. And because I'm

a bit of a **NERD**, I've decided to write all of my investigations down, just for you. Lots

of other people have tried to write it all down before,

but I want you to hear *my* side of the



SO,

it all starts with a woman called Elizabeth.

FACT FILE



NAME: Elizabeth

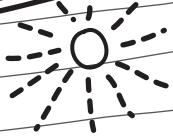
FAMILY: Zechariah (husband)

Mary (cousin)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 0

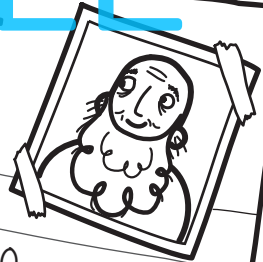
AGE: Very old

LOCATION: Lives in a little house up a hill in Judea



SAMPLE

FACT FILE



NAME: Zechariah

FAMILY: Elizabeth (wife)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 0

AGE: Very old

LOCATION: Very important Temple in Jerusalem



Elizabeth was very old. She was married to



Zechariah (who was also very old), who was a kind of

special religious leader **GUY** and he worked with a group

of other special vicars who took it in turns to burn

'smelly stuff' in the **TEMPLE**

(kind of like a Jewish church). **ANYWAY** it was



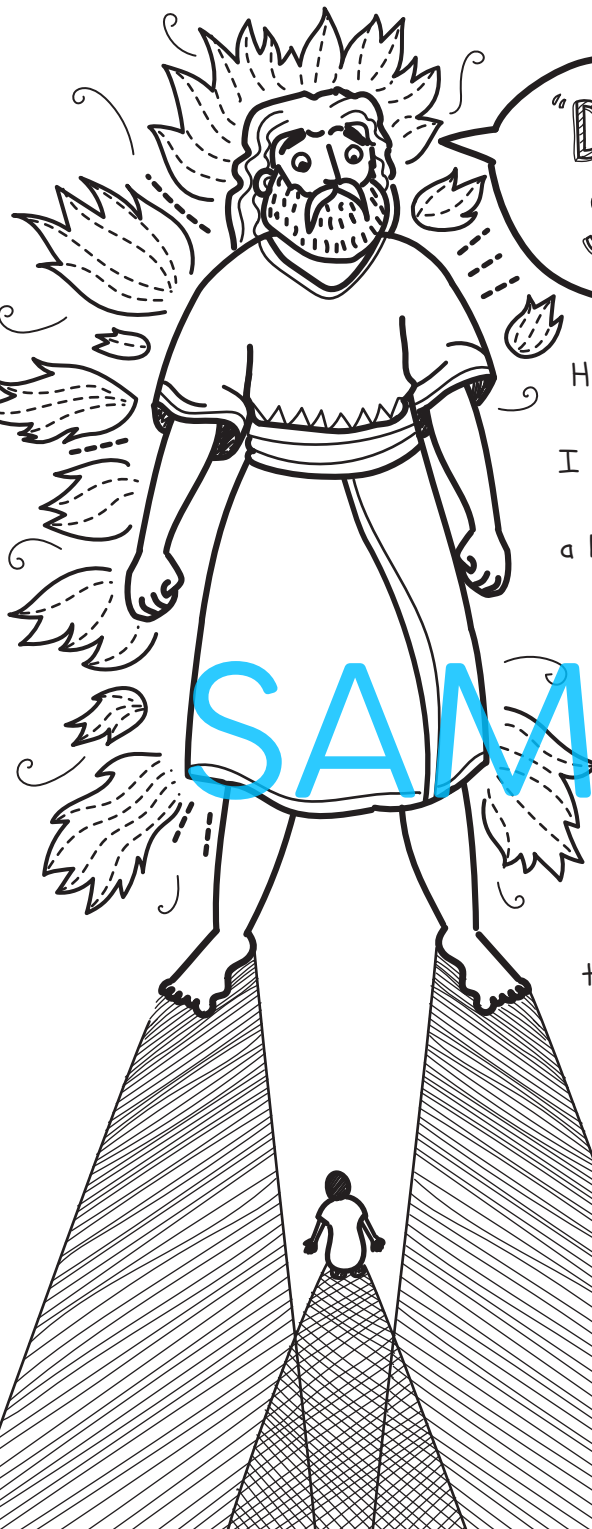
Zechariah's turn to do the burning (he burned incense — that's the 'smelly stuff' — as a way of helping people

to **WORSHIP** God) and while he was inside on his

own, something

ABSOLUTELY
"TERRIFYING" happened.

A large, glowing, bright man-shaped thing appeared out of nowhere and said,



"DON'T BE SCARED."

Ha ha. "Don't be scared"??

I mean, SERIOUSLY

a big glowing man just appeared
and fancied a chat!

Zechariah was **TERRIFIED**,

FROZEN to the spot,

and when he heard what

the man had to say he just

couldn't believe his

?? "ears?" ??

The man said, "You and your wife are going to have a

 **BABY** called **John**." Zechariah thought this

guy was **crazy**, and pretty much told him so

— which was a bit of a mistake. **oops**.

Because then the man introduced himself as the

 **ANGEL GABRIEL**

(still scary!) and told Zechariah he'd not be able to

 talk  until John was born.

NOTE TO SELF

— always listen to what angels say,

AND DO AS TOLD.

As a **Doctor** I can tell you that I'd have thought it all

sounded a bit **crazy** too, I mean super **old people**

don't just suddenly start having **babies**.

It doesn't **WORK** that way!



Poor Zechariah had to invent his **own** version of



so that he could tell everyone what had happened to him.

When he **FINALLY**  got home to Elizabeth and

managed to wave his arms around enough so that she could



understand what had happened, she was even more



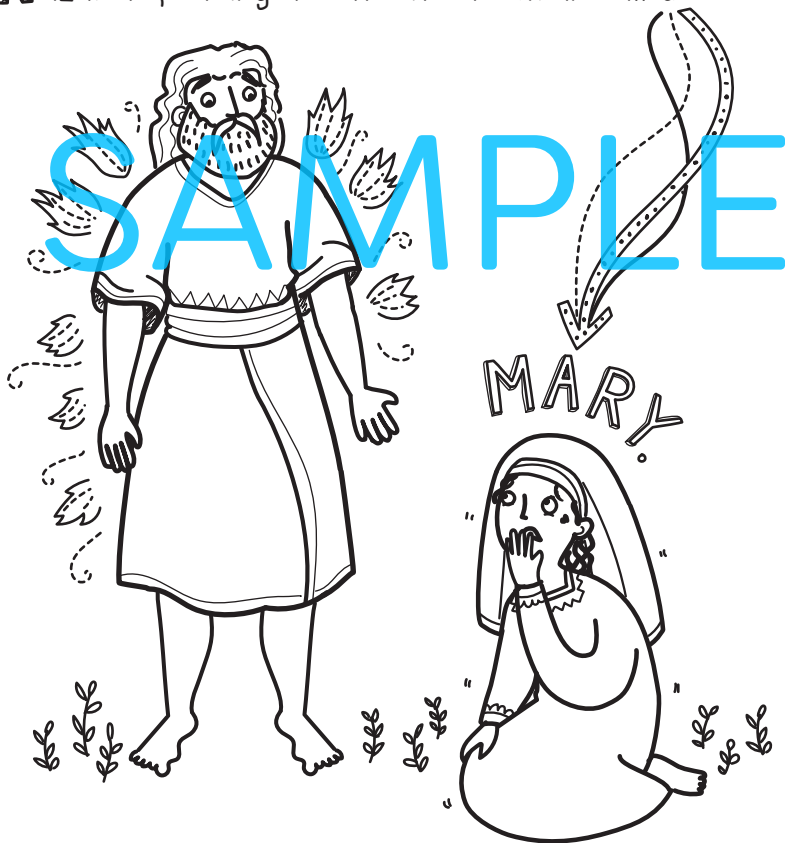
than he was.



6

months later

the **ANGEL GABRIEL** was out and about again, only this time he was in a **TINY** town called **N**azareth, having a chat with a woman called



He was telling her all sorts of *lovely* things
(that God had told him to say), so he couldn't understand
why Mary seemed SO SCARED. I mean, what's

scary about being told that God

♥ really likes you ♥,

that he's with you


and that you're going to have **A BABY** and
God's going to be the **DAD**... and you have to call him


JESUS?

That's not scary at all... if
you're the angel Gabriel. Gabriel also said, "Oh, by the way,
your cousin Elizabeth is having a **BABY** too."

Mary took a **DEEP BREATH** and calmly said, "OK.

If it's what God wants, then I'LL DO IT." She must've
been **SUPER** brave.

MARY went to see Elizabeth and she was definitely pregnant, either that or she'd eaten a GIANT FOOTBALL for breakfast. Elizabeth was ^{mmmmmm} SO EXCITED 

to see Mary that both she and baby John JUMPED [↑] up and down for  JOY, and Mary started to dance and sing:

God is SO GOOD I can hardly believe it
Why'd he choose me, I'm really not a good fit

But he has [👉] blessed me, because he is epic

And I will praise him, 'cos he's FANTASTIC



He's **SO** good, he's **SO** kind

I can't believe he had me on his mind

He's **SO AWESOME**, he's **SO STRONG**

It's amazing he's ^{♥ ♥ ♥}loved us all for so long

SAMPLE

God is **SO GOOD**, I can hardly believe it,

He has chosen **ME**, so now I'll do my bit

He's my helper, he's my **LORD**

He is **GOD**, he's the Lord of all!

EVENTUALLY

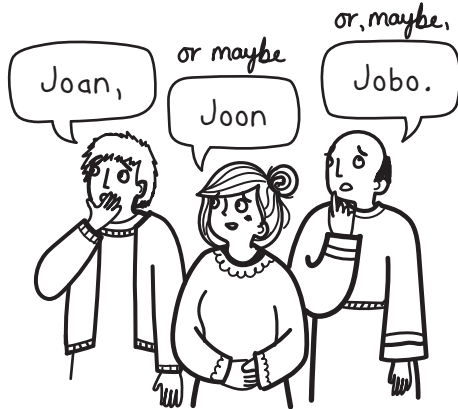
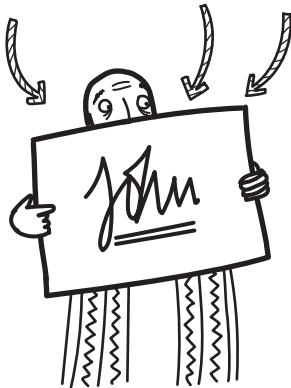
, Elizabeth had her baby and everyone told her she should call him **ZECHARIAH**

after his dad. Elizabeth tried to tell them all she wanted to call him **John**, but they were having **NONE**

OF IT. Zechariah started waving his arms about like **CRAZY** again and everyone stared at him.

WEIRDO.

Then he grabbed something to write on and scribbled down something that looked vaguely like



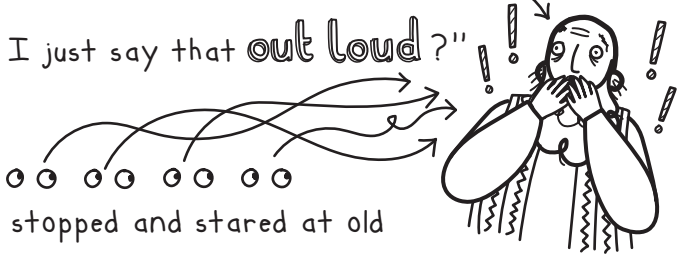
But eventually someone said, "Does that say **John**?"

PRAISE GOD! At that moment Zechariah

suddenly blurted out: "John! John! John! His name is

John!" then he pulled a rather **ODD** face and said,

"Hey! Did I just say that **out loud?**"



Everyone stopped and stared at old

Zechariah. He hadn't said a **SINGLE** word for whole months (not even a **THANK YOU** – how rude!) and then

all of a **SUDDEN** he could speak again. **Super** **CONFUSING** eh? But the people began to wonder...

There must be something **special** about this John baby, maybe God might've had something to do with it...

Baby John became the subject of village **gossip** pretty quickly!



Zechariah was SO **EXCITED** at being able to talk again,

that words just wouldn't **stop**
coming out
of his mouth.

He was **happy**, **sorry**, **EXCITED**, **exhausted**
and **AMAZED** all at once.

SAMPLE

God has done it **again!**
He's really **saving** us all

Just like he said he would
He **NEVER** breaks a promise.

He's **RESCUING** us,

He's **FORGIVING** us,

He's **LOVING** us,

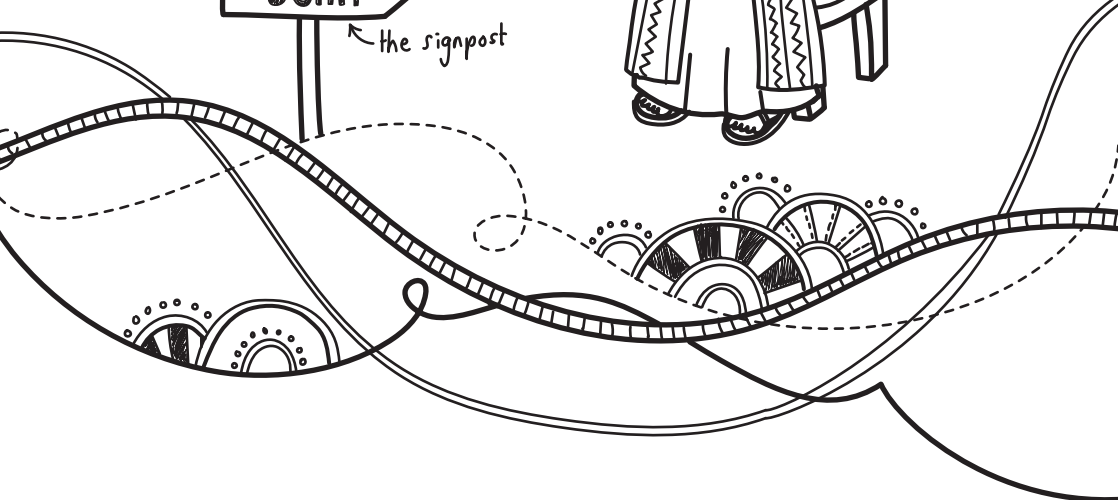
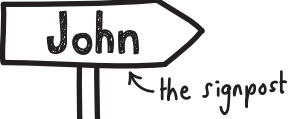
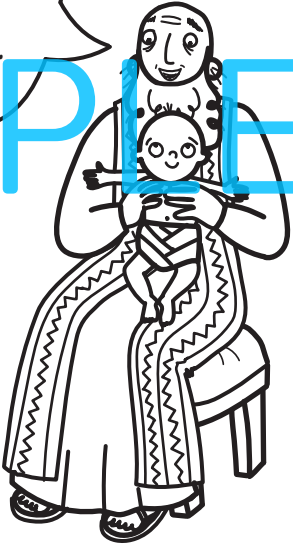
He's **AMAZING!**

"And John," (Zechariah **"BOUNCED"** him on his
knee as he said this),

you're going to be the start
of it **ALL!** You're going to tell
people what's coming, you're
going to be like a *signpost*.


SAMPLE

(Very **INSPIRATIONAL**
comment from a father there.)



As John grew up, he was still a **HOT TOPIC**

in the local **gossip** charts, especially when he decided

to go off and live in the desert, wear **CAMEL** hair 

and eat only **HONEY** and  **insects**. Tasty. How was he

supposed to be a **signpost** in the desert? No one

ever even went there!

SAMPLE