

## Luke 1:1-38

His Name is John

*The silence is broken ...*

### I. The Prophets' Prophet

A. Malachi

B. Zechariah

### II. Prenatal Preparations

A. Dedicated Parents

B. A Meeting with Jesus

### III. His Primary Purpose

A. Prepare to Meet God

B. Prepare the Way of the Lord

*... with the good news of salvation!*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. What did the angel tell Zachariah in the Temple?
2. What strange thing happened to Zachariah until the day John was born?
3. What was John going to be?
4. What was the most important message John was going to bring to the people?
5. John was still in his mother's tummy when she met Jesus' mother Mary when Jesus was in her tummy! What did John do when they met?

## It's Who He's About

Christmas without Jesus makes no sense to Christians. While we may get caught up in all the festivities of the season like so many others, we always go back to the fact that this celebration is ultimately about the incarnation of the second person of the Trinity. But Christmas without John the Baptist, weird as that might sound, doesn't make sense either. We tend to think of him as a scruffy street prophet with a fiery message whose image doesn't seem to fit with the merriment of the holidays. But the announcement, birth and calling of John plays an indispensable role in the first advent of Jesus. His coming was prophesied, his conception was a miracle of God and his calling was to prepare the way for the Lord. In Jesus' own words, "among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John." John was significant and great indeed, but he knew his place. Just as his coming was in anticipation of Christ's, his message was about the Savior's arrival. As the prophet said himself: "He must increase, but I must decrease." When we read the narrative of John's arrival, we don't want to miss its importance, but we must at the same time keep our eyes fixed on Jesus – that's what it's all about!