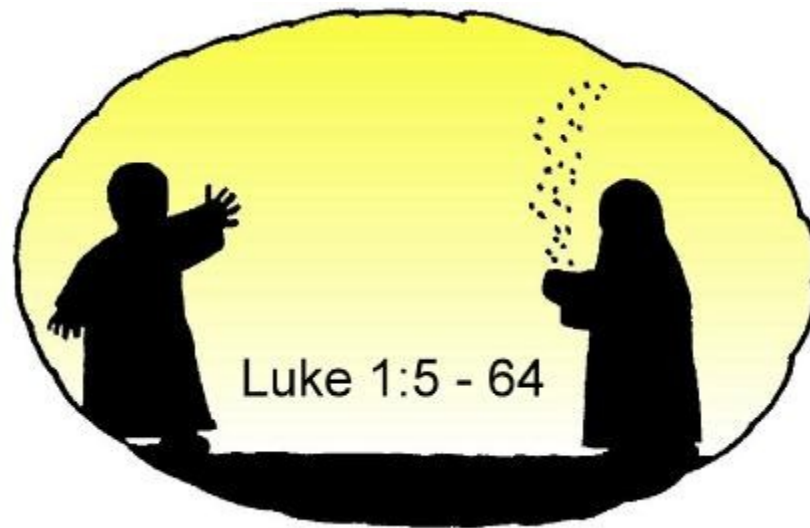


Zacharias Can't Talk

By Jill Kemp

Illustrated by Richard Gunther





Zacharias was a good man.
He loved to pray as he helped
in the temple at Jerusalem,
but he was sad because he had no children.



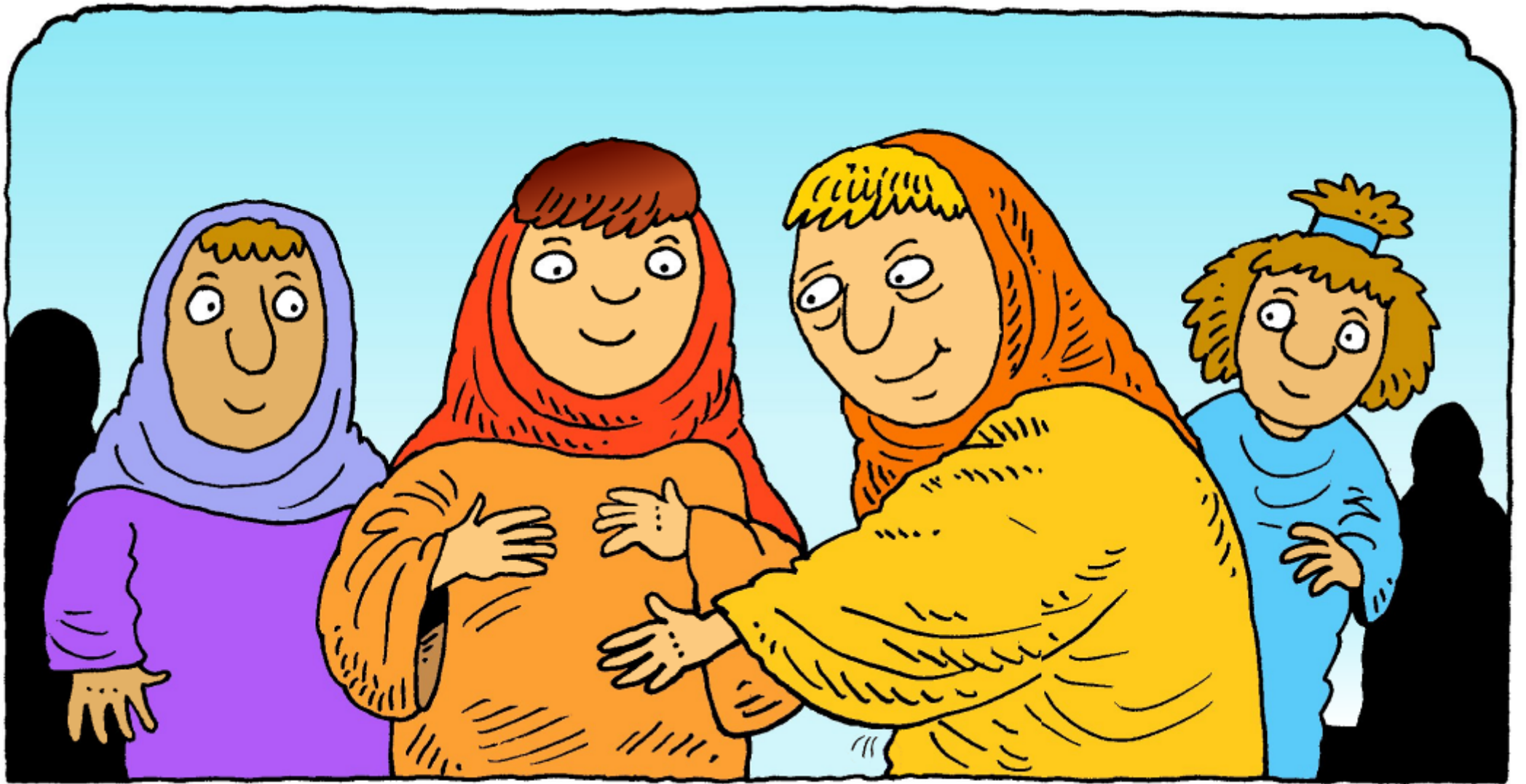
One day, while he was busy
in the temple, the angel Gabriel
suddenly appeared in front of him,
with a message from God.



“You and your wife Elisabeth
will soon have a baby boy.
You must call him John,” said the angel.
“This can’t be true,” said Zacharias.



“We are too old to have a child.”
“To show that God sent me,” said the angel,
“You will not be able to talk
until the baby is named John.”



When Elisabeth was six months pregnant
her cousin Mary came to visit her.
As Mary called out, Elisabeth's baby,
in her tummy, was so happy he began to jump.



And, just as the angel had said,
Zacharias could not talk
until after his baby was born.
“His name is John,” said Zacharias.



Zacharias and Elisabeth's baby,
was Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist,
who came to tell everyone to get ready
because God's Son was coming soon.