



"What Will This Child Become?"
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WHAT WILL THIS CHILD BECOME?

"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins."

Luke 1:76-77 (NRSV)

THE STORY SO FAR

- Zechariah is visited by the angel Gabriel while doing God's work in the Temple. He is told his wife Elizabeth will have a son, John.
- Due to their advanced age, Zechariah doubts Gabriel's words and becomes unable to speak until the promise is fulfilled.
- Gabriel appears to Mary to announce the birth of Jesus by the Holy Spirit's power; he addresses her as being "full of grace."
- Mary visits Elizabeth sometime before John the Baptist's birth, and the baby leaps in her womb at Mary's greeting.

WHAT JOHN'S BIRTH REVEALS ABOUT OUR IDENTITY

1. With every birth comes _____.

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

Luke 1:57-58 (NIV)

2. From birth our identity is _____.

And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name."

Luke 1:59-61 (ESV)

The name "John" means: _____.

WHAT JOHN'S BIRTH REVEALS ABOUT OUR IDENTITY

3. Our identity is rooted in _____.

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John."

Luke 1:62-63 (ESV)

4. God _____ and _____ our identity.

Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

Luke 1:64-66 (ESV)

5. We are a _____ of God’s _____.

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.”

Luke 1:67-75 (ESV)

HOW YOU CAN BE WHO GOD HAS CREATED YOU TO BE

1. _____ as God’s _____.

And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord.

Luke 1:76 (NLT)

2. _____ of God’s _____.

You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins.

Luke 1:77 (NLT)

3. Commit to walk the _____.

Because of God’s tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.”

Luke 1:78-79 (NLT)

This Christmas, you are invited to receive the gift of God.

God reveals who you are.

You are God’s gift for the blessing of this world.

ANSWER KEY:

1. With every birth comes **ANTICIPATION.**
2. From birth our identity is **QUESTIONED.** The name John means: **GIFT OF GOD.**
3. Our identity is rooted in **GOD'S WORD.**
4. God **CONFIRMS** and **AFFIRMS** our identity.
5. We are a **PEOPLE** of God's **MERCY.**
1. **LIVE** as God's **REPRESENTATIVE.**
2. **SHARE THE STORY** of God's **MERCY.**
3. Commit to walk the **PATH OF PEACE.**