

The Birth of John

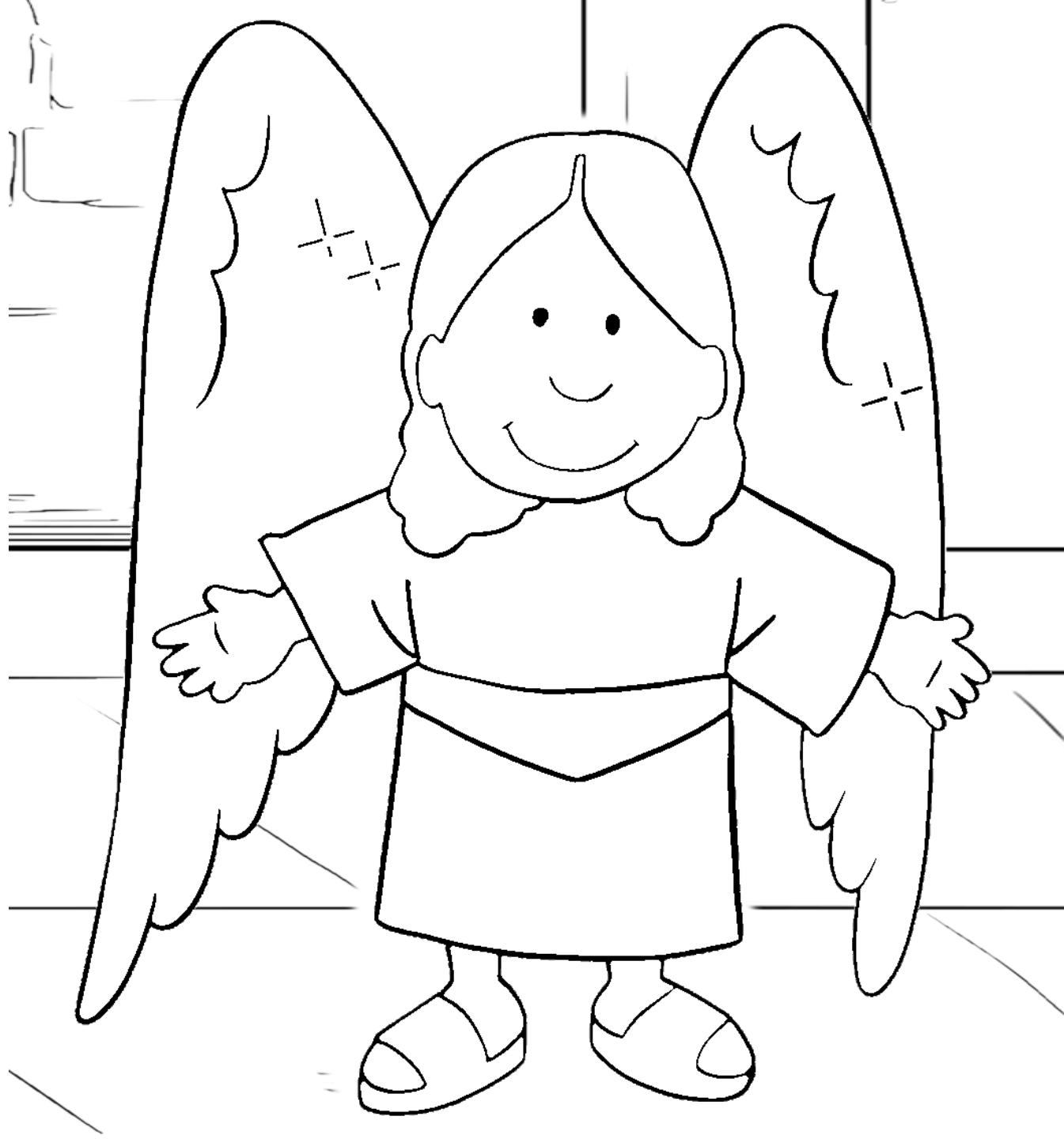
Coloring book



Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, honored God. They were very old but never had children.



Then God sent an angel to Zechariah. The angel said to Zechariah, “Your wife will have a son. You will name him John. God will fill him with the Holy Spirit, and John will get the people ready to accept the Messiah!”



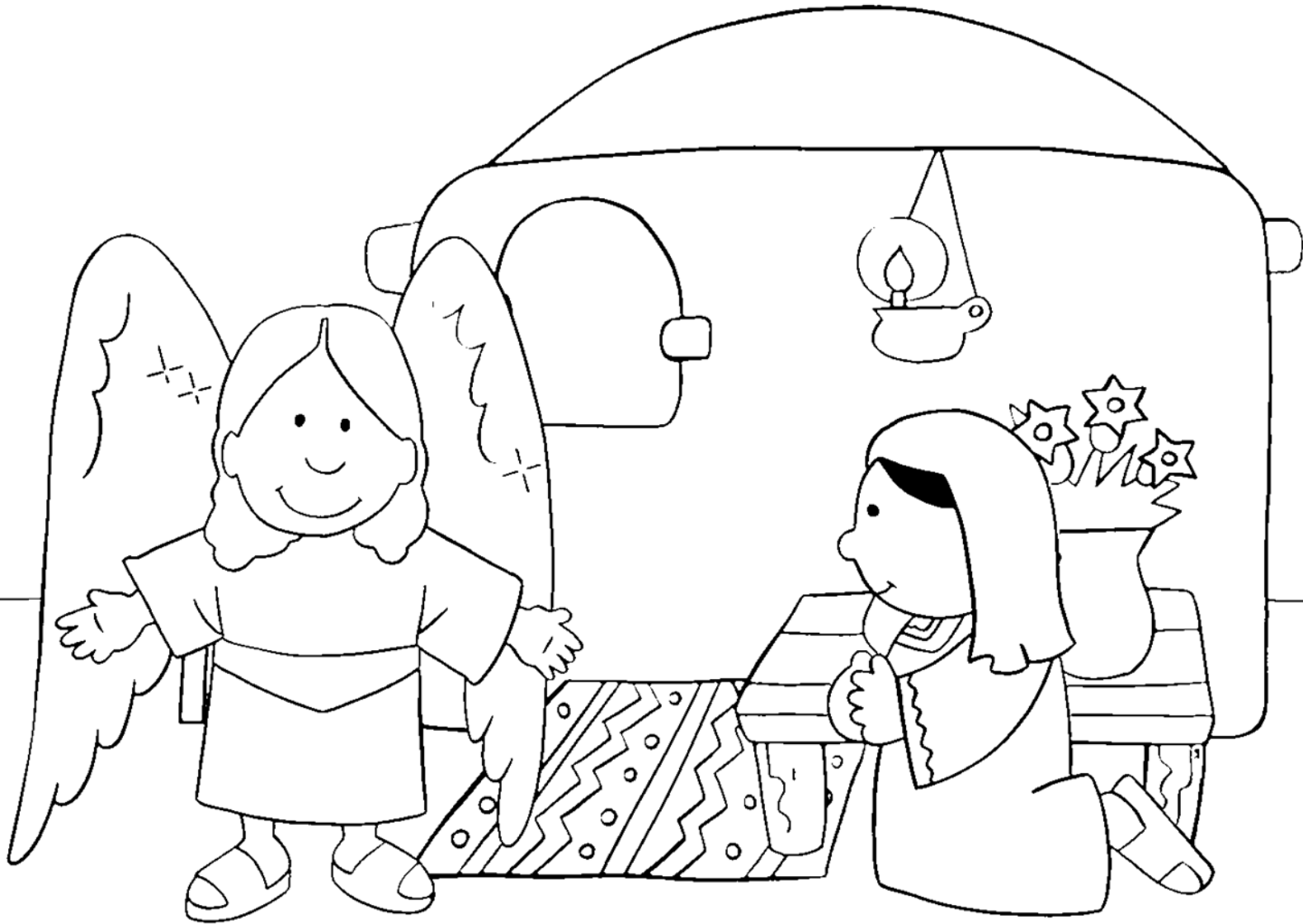
Zechariah responded,
“My wife and I are too
old to have children!
How can I know you
are telling me the
truth?”

The angel responded to
Zechariah, “I was sent
by God to bring you
this good news.
Because you did not
believe me, you will
not be able to speak
until the child is born.”

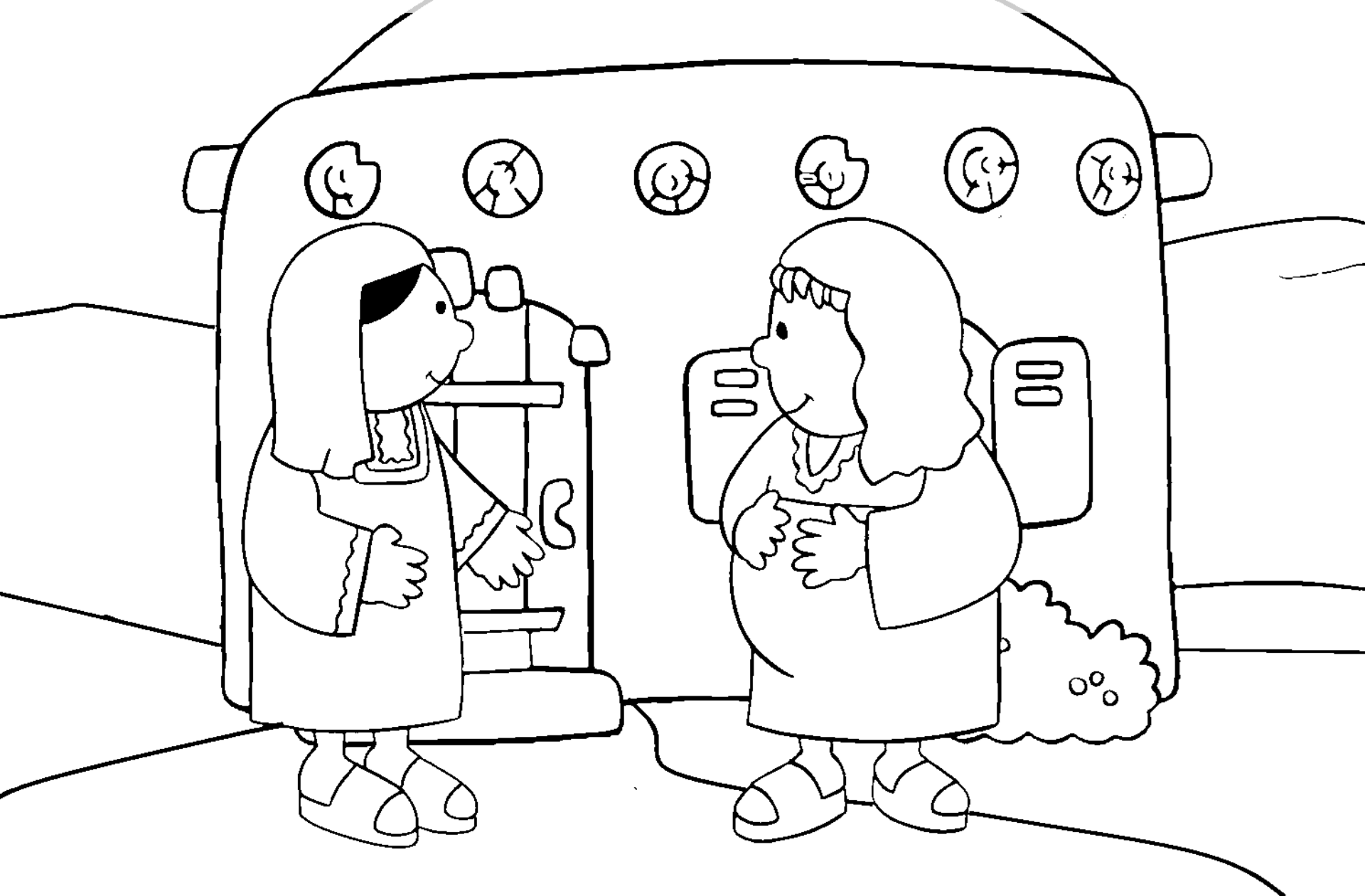
Immediately, Zechariah
was unable to speak.
Then the angel left
Zechariah.



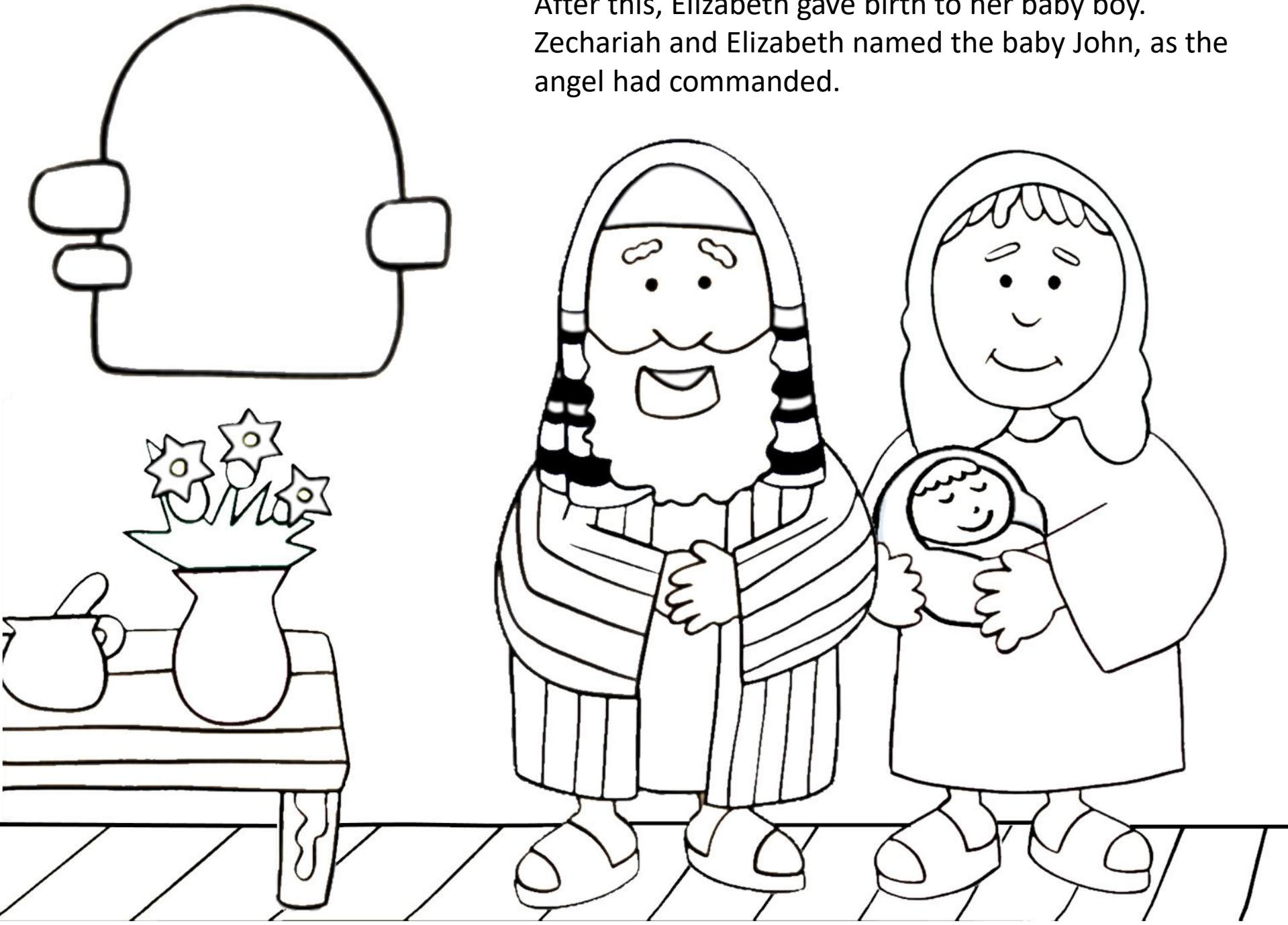
When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, the same angel appeared to Elizabeth's relative, whose name was Mary. She was a virgin and was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. The angel said, "You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You are to name him Jesus. He will be the Son of God and will rule forever."

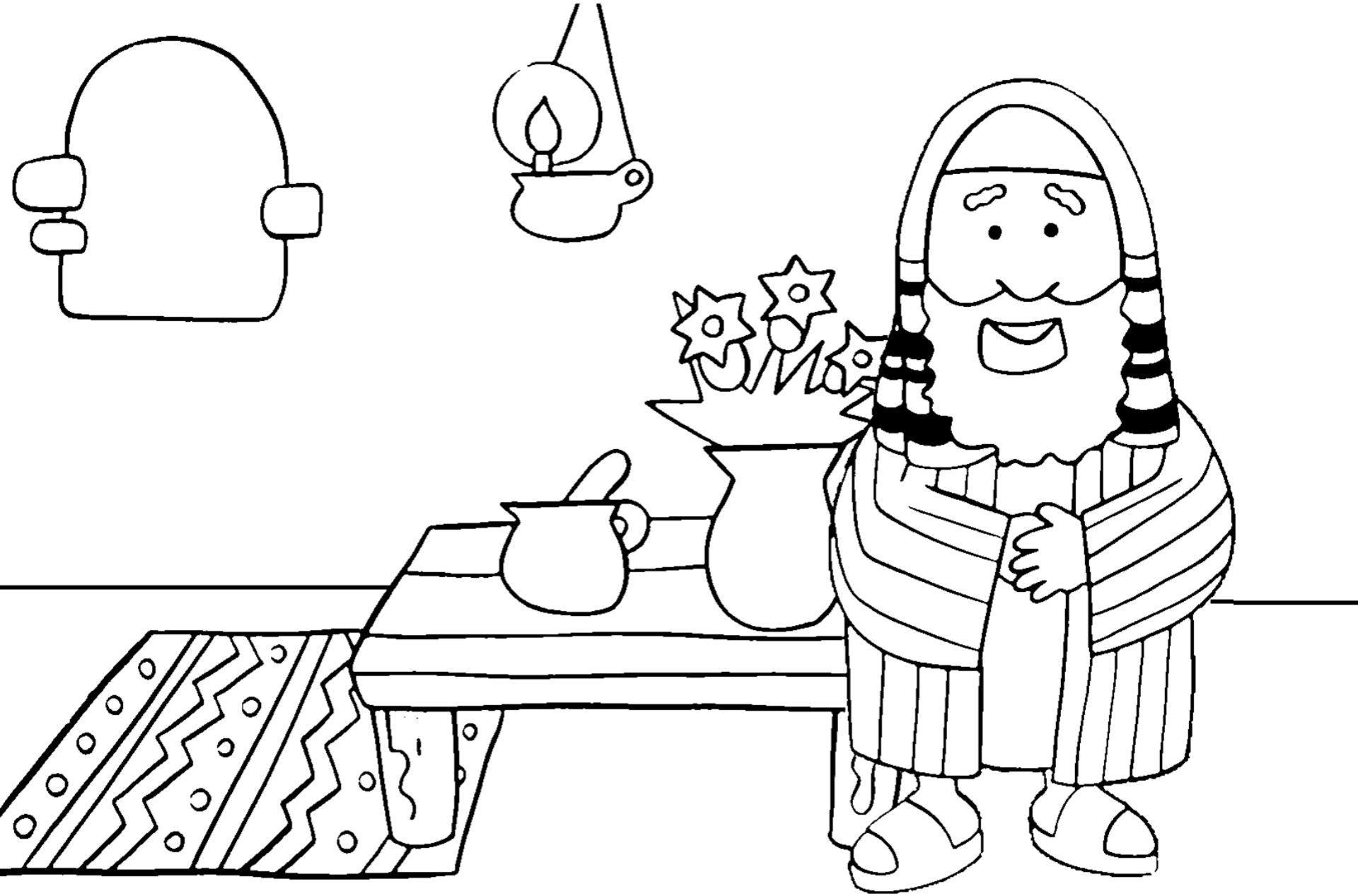


Soon after this happened, Mary went and visited Elizabeth. As soon as Mary greeted her, Elizabeth's baby jumped inside her. The women rejoiced together about what God had done for them.



After this, Elizabeth gave birth to her baby boy. Zechariah and Elizabeth named the baby John, as the angel had commanded.





Then God made Zechariah able to speak again. Zechariah said, "Praise God, because he has remembered to help his people!"

“And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord. You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins.”



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Art by Didier Martin