



John The Baptist Prepared The Way For Jesus Christ

“Lesson 3: John the Baptist Prepared the Way for Jesus Christ,” *Primary 7: New Testament*, 9

What is foreordination?

- **Heavenly Father foreordained us in premortal life when he chose us to do a special work for him on earth.**
- **Being foreordained does not mean that we have to do the work; we still have our freedom or agency, but the opportunity is ours if we choose.**

**Before class one of
you was chosen to
do a service.**

Please do it now.

**Foreordination is
like this.**

- **In this lesson we are going to learn about John the Baptist, who was foreordained or chosen to carry out an important mission on earth.**
- **Read aloud the words on your paper.**

I am a choice spirit

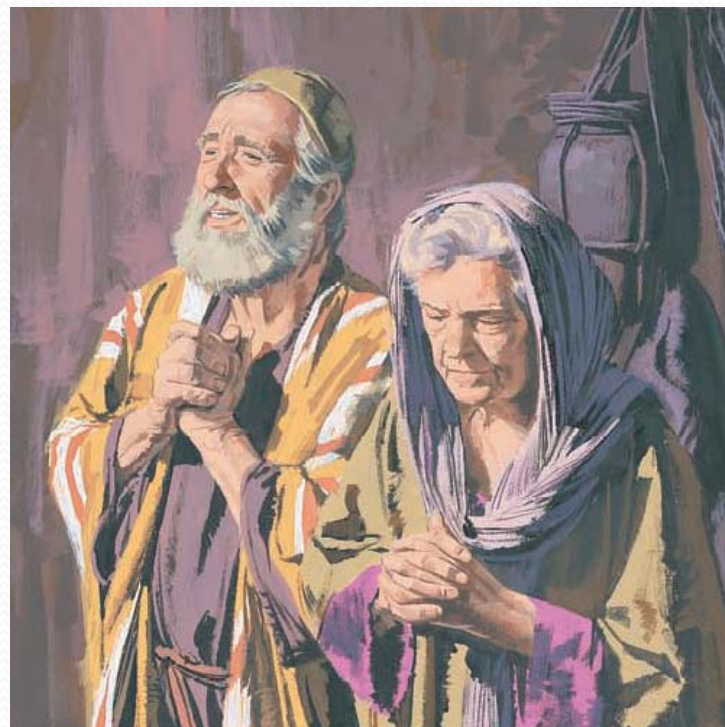
The scriptures we will study explain that John the Baptist was a choice spirit and chosen in the premortal life to prepare the way for Jesus Christ.



The Story of John the Baptist



- **Zacharias and his wife, Elisabeth, were Jews who lived near Jerusalem. They obeyed God's commandments.**



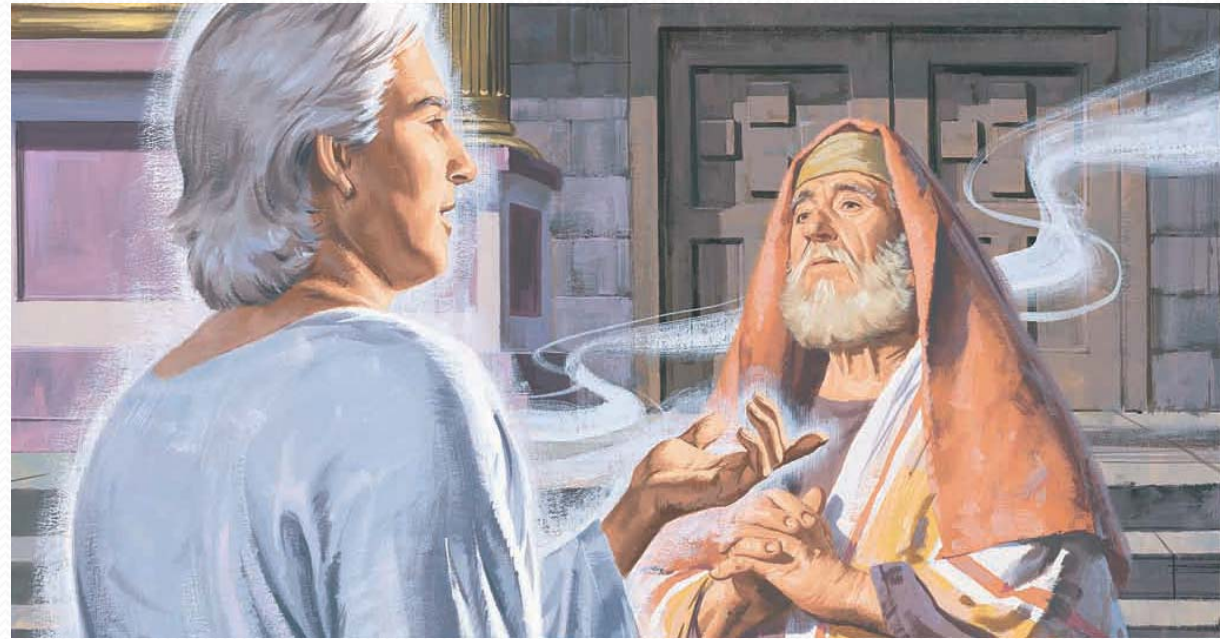
- **For many years they prayed to have a baby. When they were old, they still had no children.**

- **Zacharias was a priest in the temple. One day an angel named Gabriel came to him.**
- **Gabriel said that God would answer Zacharias and Elisabeth's prayers.**



- **They would have a baby.**

- **Gabriel said they should name the baby John.**



- **Gabriel said that John would be a righteous prophet of God. He would teach people about Jesus Christ.**

- **Zacharias did not believe the angel.**

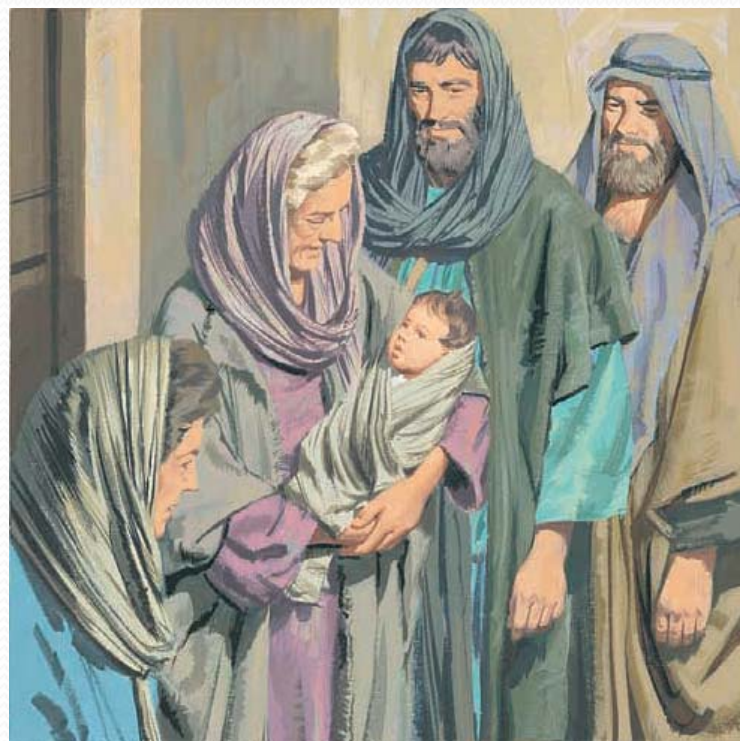


- **Elisabeth was too old to have a baby.**

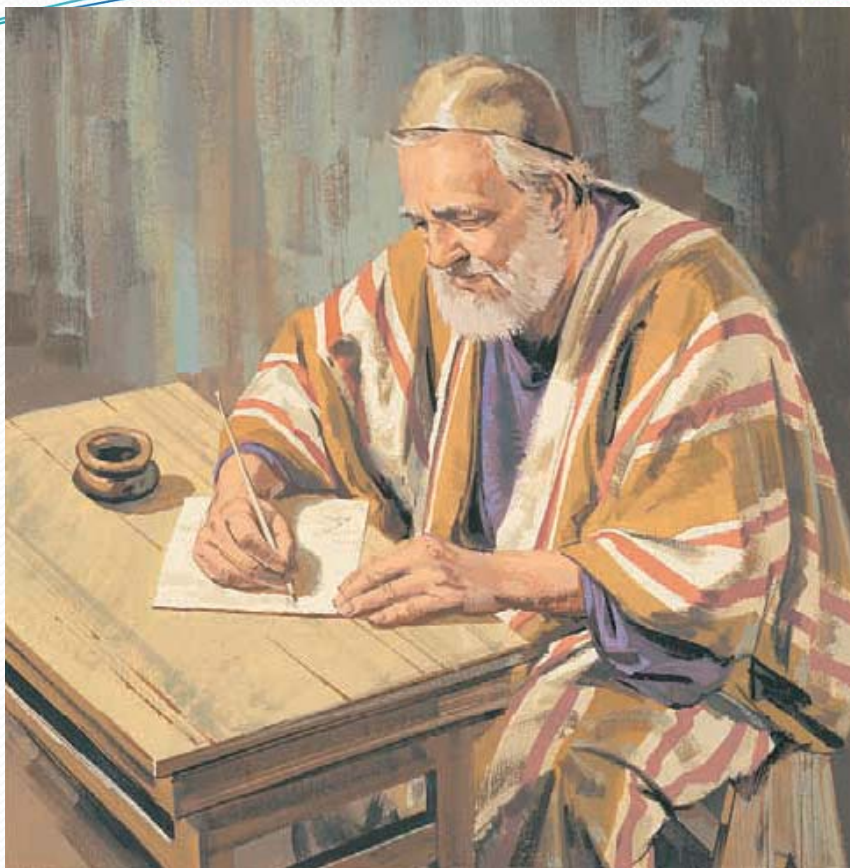
- **Gabriel said that because he did not believe what God had promised, Zacharias would not be able to talk until John was born.**

- **Elisabeth's son was born. Her friends and family were happy.**

- **They thought that the baby should have the same name as his father, Zacharias.**

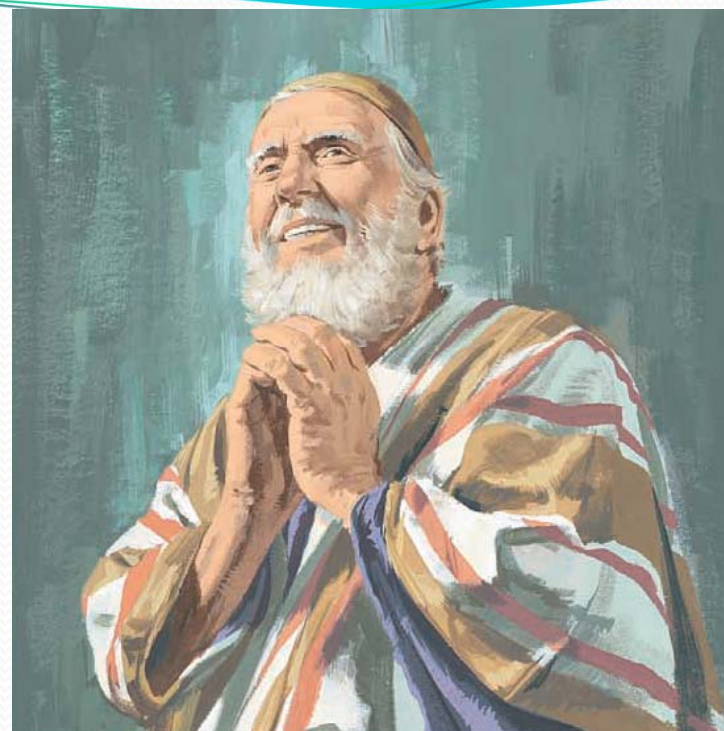


- **But Elisabeth said that his name should be John. Everyone was surprised.**

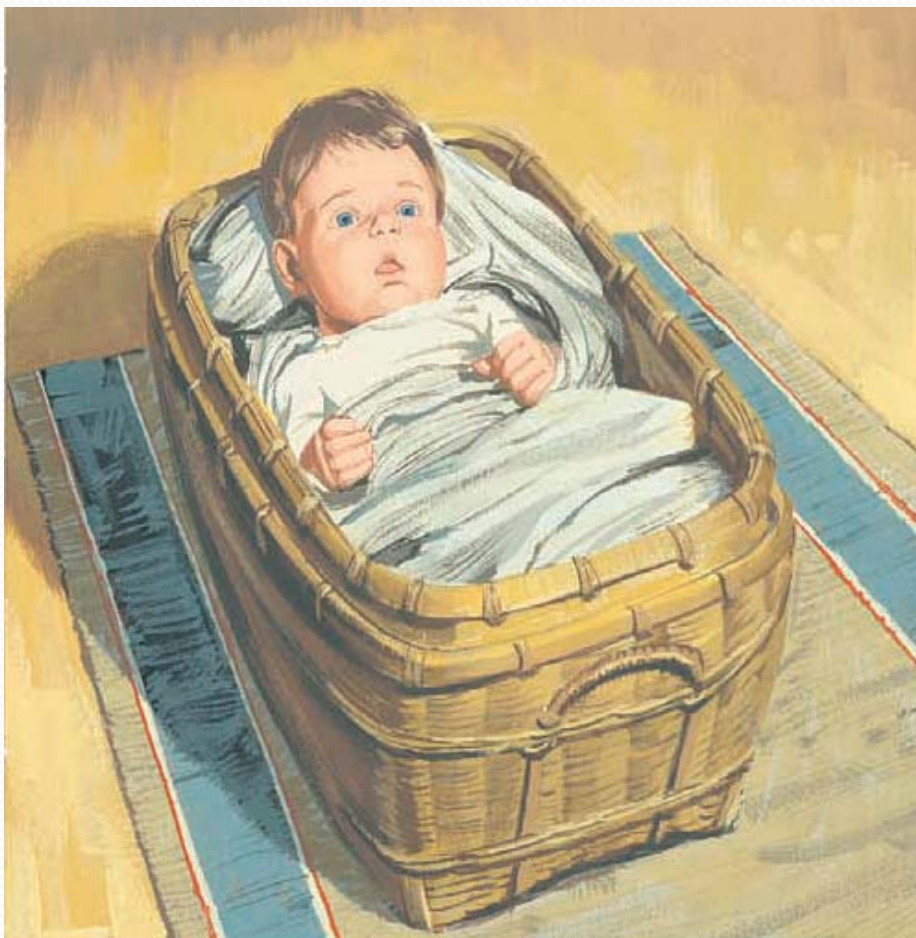


- **The people asked Zacharias what the baby's name should be.**
- **Zacharias still could not talk, so he wrote, "His name is John."**

- **Then Zacharias was able to speak again. He was filled with the Holy Ghost.**

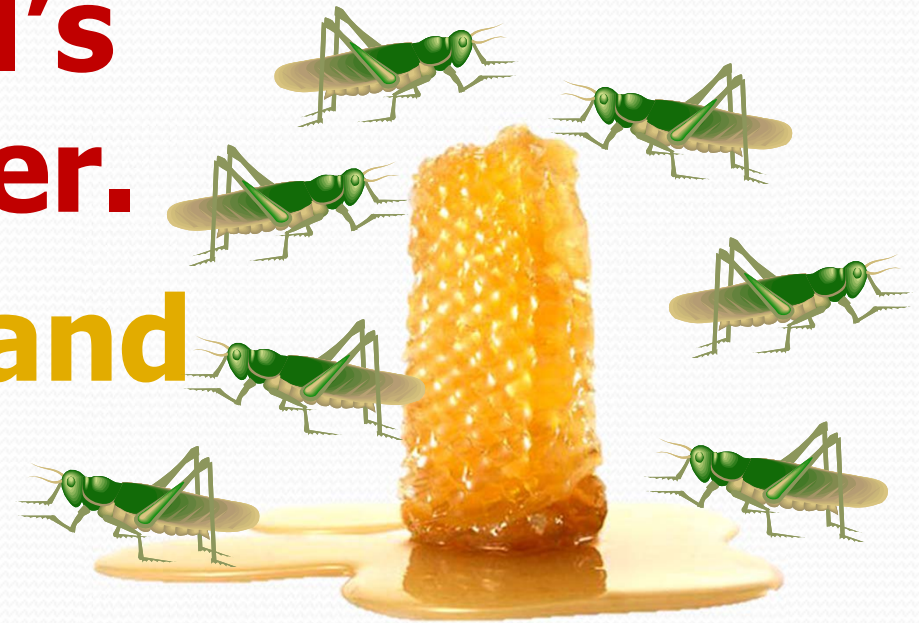
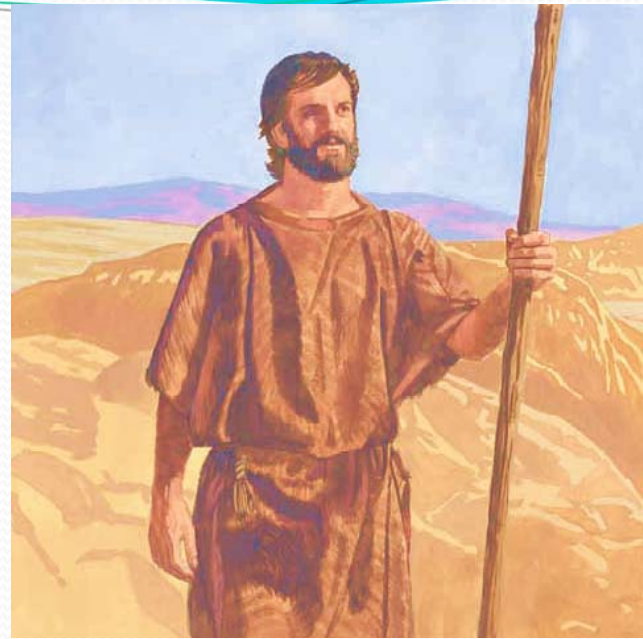


- **He told the people that Jesus Christ would soon be born and that John would prepare the people for Him.**



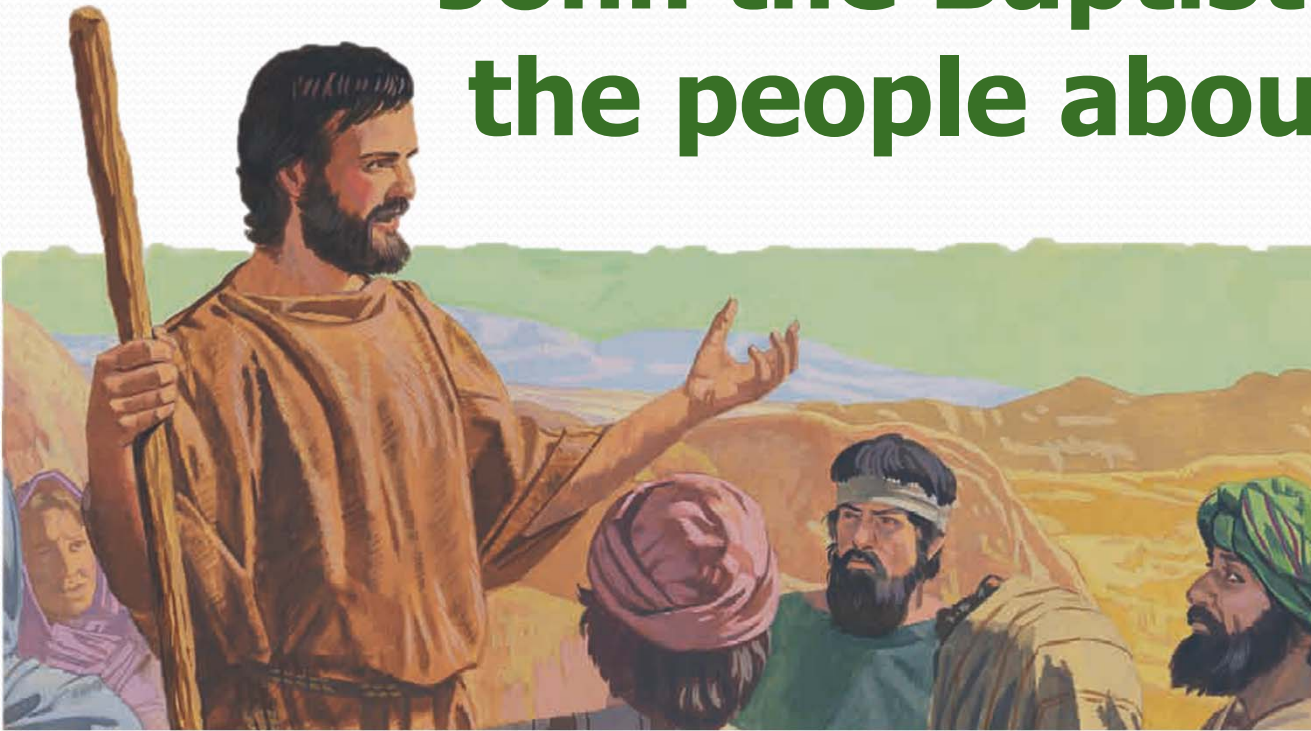
**John grew up
to become a
great
prophet. He
taught
people about
Jesus Christ.**

- **John lived in the desert for many years.**
- **He wore clothes made of camel's hair and leather.**
- **He ate honey and locusts.**

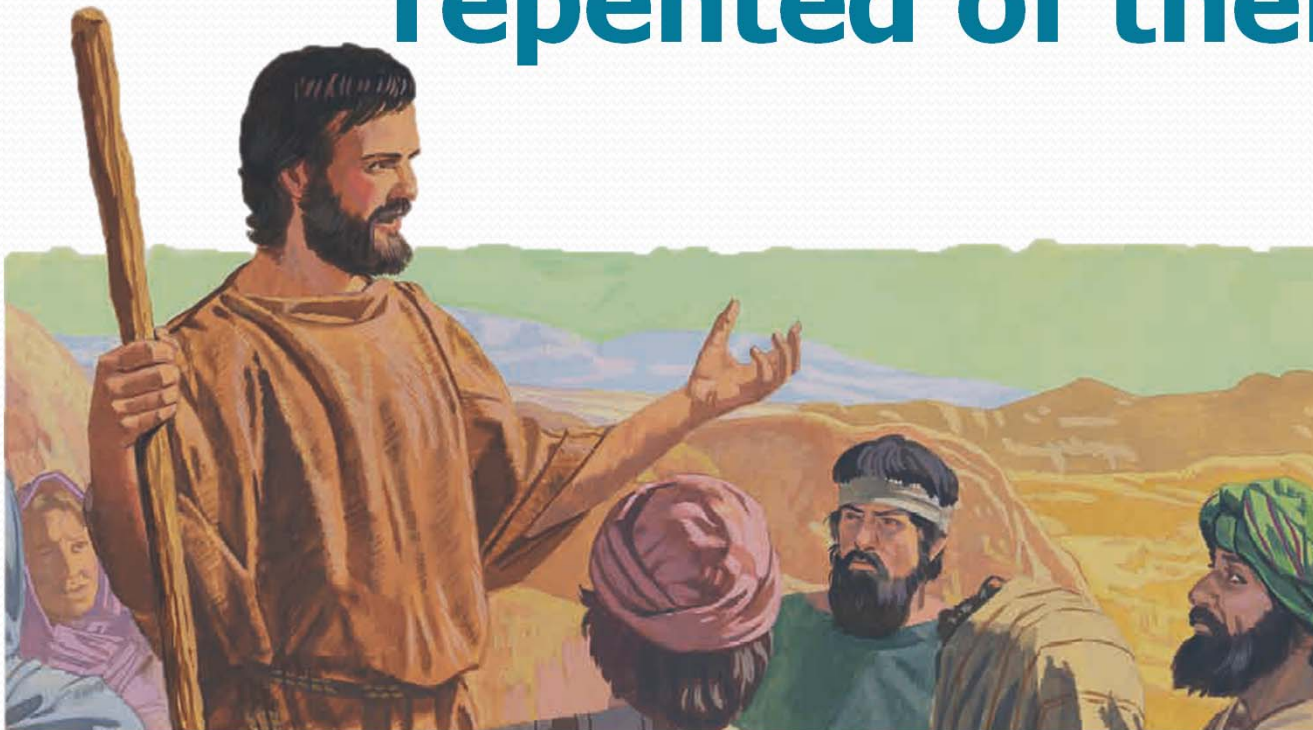


- **People came from the cities to hear him teach. He was known as John the Baptist.**

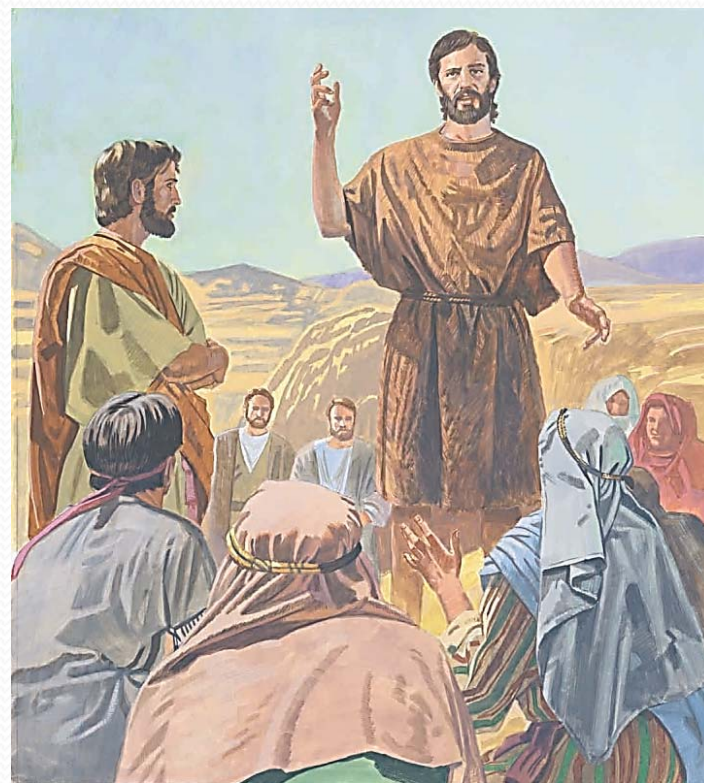
- **John the Baptist taught the people about Jesus Christ.**



- **John told them to repent of their sins and be baptized.**
 - **He baptized those who repented of their sins.**



- **The people asked John how to live better lives. He told them to share with the poor, tell the truth, and be fair to others.**
- **He said that Jesus Christ would soon come.**
- **Jesus would give them the gift of the Holy Ghost.**





John the Baptist told the people he could baptize them with water, but Jesus Christ would baptize with the Holy Ghost.

Discussion Time!

- What do we know about the parents of John the Baptist?
- **Let's read Luke 1:5–7**
- Why was Zacharias not able to speak?
- **Let's read Luke 1:18–20**



- Why did Zacharias and Elisabeth name their son John?
- **Let's read Luke 1:13**
- What do we know about John's childhood?
- **Let's read Luke 1:80 & D&C 84:27–28**





- What was John the Baptist foreordained to do?
 - Let's read **Luke 1:15–17, 76–77**



- How did John the Baptist fulfill his foreordained mission to prepare the way for Jesus Christ?

- Let's read **Matthew 3:1–6**

Quiz Time!

John the Baptist:

- a. Lived in the _____.
- b. Was _____ months older than Jesus.
- c. Wore clothing made of _____ and _____.
- d. Ate _____ and _____.
- e. Prepared the way for _____.

Let's read Luke 1:26–27, 35–36, 76 and Matthew 3:1, 4 for the answers!

Quiz Time!

John the Baptist:

- a. Lived in the wilderness.
- b. Was six months older than Jesus.
- c. Wore clothing made of camel hair and leather.
- d. Ate locusts and honey.
- e. Prepared the way for Jesus Christ.

Let's read Luke 1:26–27, 35–36, 76 and Matthew 3:1, 4 for the answers!

Even though John the Baptist lived a simple, humble life in the wilderness, he faithfully fulfilled his mission and prepared the way for Jesus Christ.



Just as John the Baptist was a choice spirit chosen to help build Heavenly Father's kingdom by preparing the way for Jesus Christ, *we are choice spirits* chosen to help build Heavenly Father's kingdom by helping people know more about Jesus Christ.



President Ezra Taft Benson said:

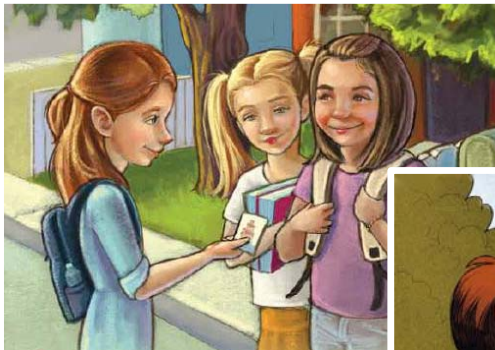
“You are choice spirits, many of you having been held back in reserve for almost 6,000 years to come forth in this day, at this time, when the temptations, responsibilities, and opportunities are the very greatest”

(in Conference Report, Oct. 1977, p. 43; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1977, p. 30).

- **How does it make you feel to know that Heavenly Father knows you personally and chose you to come to earth at this time?**



- **What are some of the things we might have been foreordained to do to help build Heavenly Father's kingdom?**

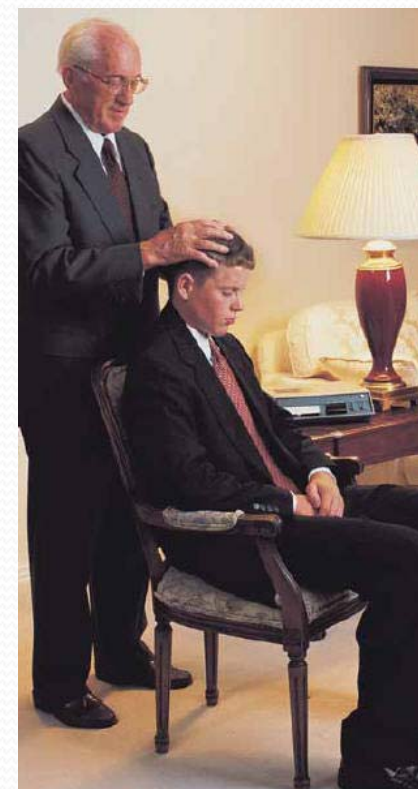


- **How can you find out what Heavenly Father wants you to do here on earth?**



- **Pray about decisions, listen to the Spirit.**

- **Heavenly Father has also given us the opportunity to receive patriarchal blessings from a stake patriarch when we are old enough.**
- **Patriarchal blessings often indicate what callings we might receive or what Heavenly Father wants us to do with our lives.**





- **How can you prepare yourself to do what Heavenly Father wants you to do?**

LET'S READ
THESE
SCRIPTURES TO
FIND OUT WHO
ELSE WAS
FOREORDAINED
FOR THEIR
EARTHLY
MISSION



- **Jeremiah 1:5 —Jeremiah**
- **1 Nephi 11:18 —
Mary, the mother
of Jesus (vision
given to Nephi)**
- **Ether 3:14 —
Jesus Christ**
- **D&C 138:53, 55 —
Joseph Smith &
others**
- **Abraham 3:23 —Abraham**



- I bear testimony that just as John the Baptist was foreordained to prepare the way for Jesus Christ and be a witness for him, so each of us was foreordained to our mission on earth.



- I know the importance of living the gospel and being worthy to do whatever Heavenly Father foreordained us to do.

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