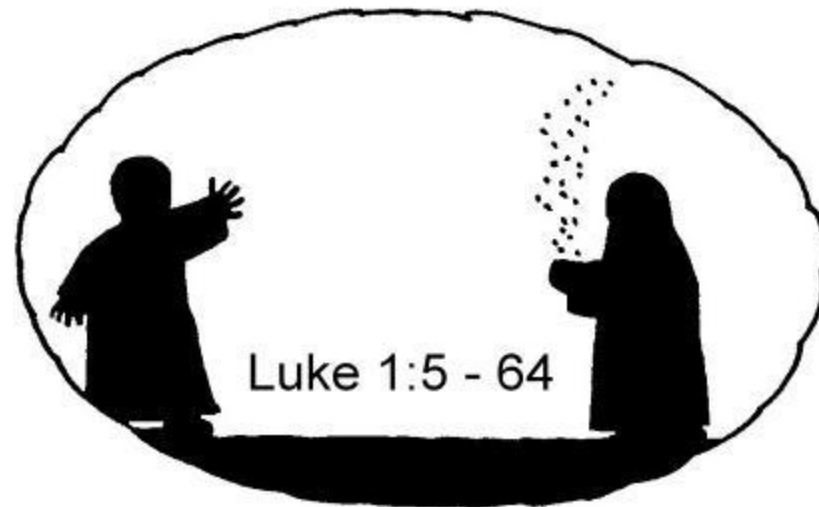
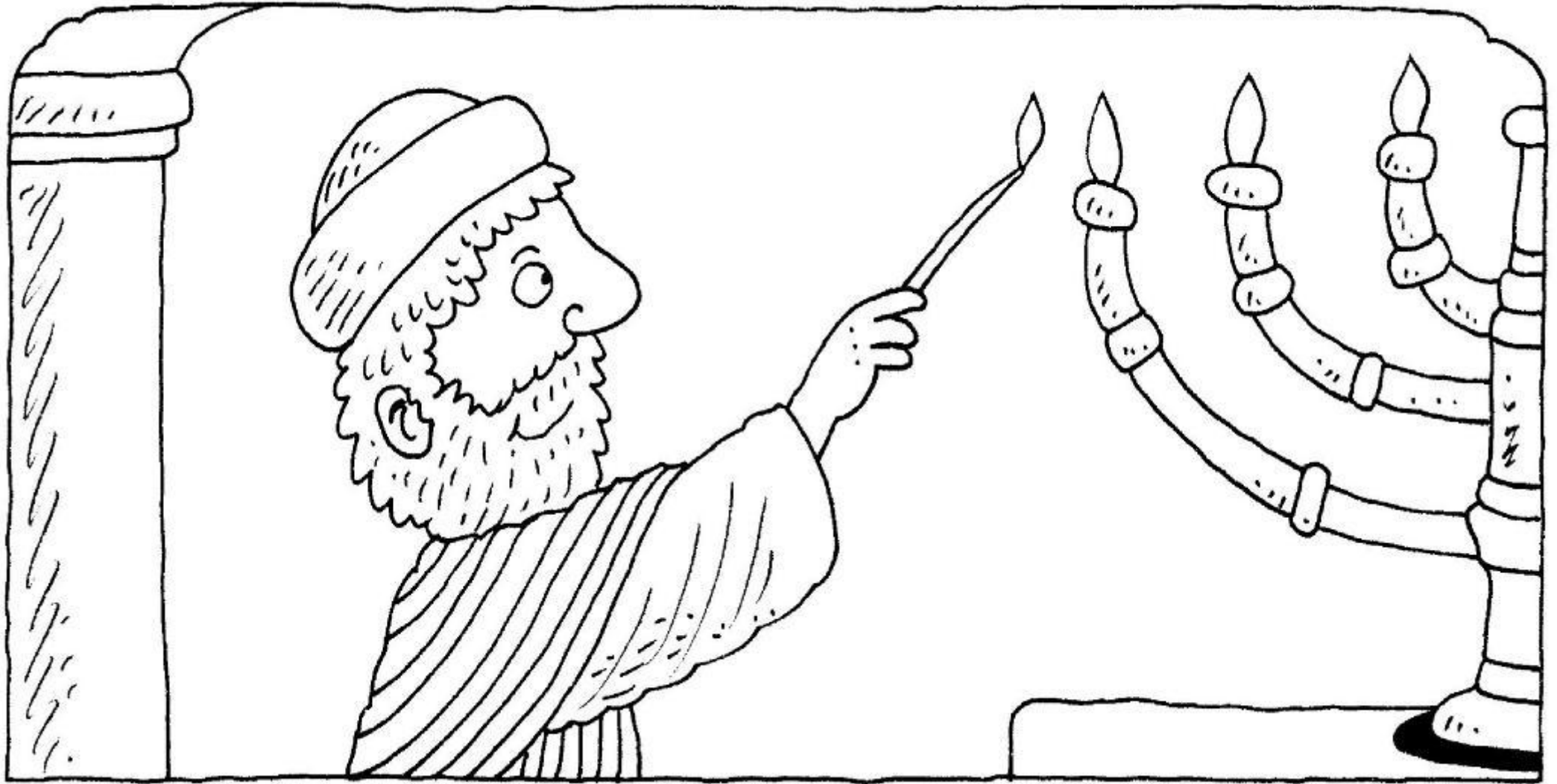


# Zacharias Can't Talk

By Jill Kemp

Illustrated by Richard Gunther

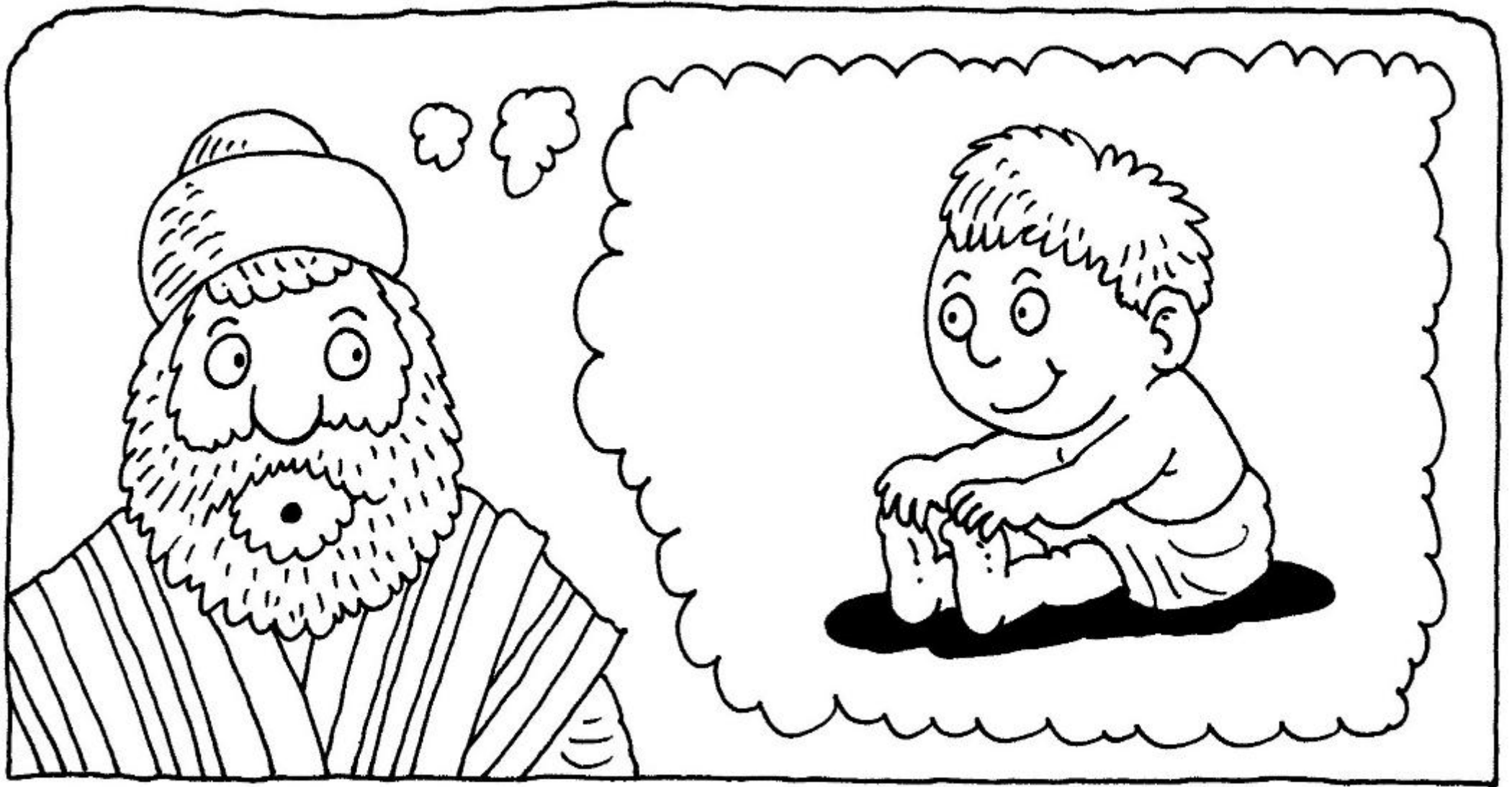




Zacharias was a good man.  
He loved to pray as he helped  
in the temple at Jerusalem,  
but he was sad because he had no children.



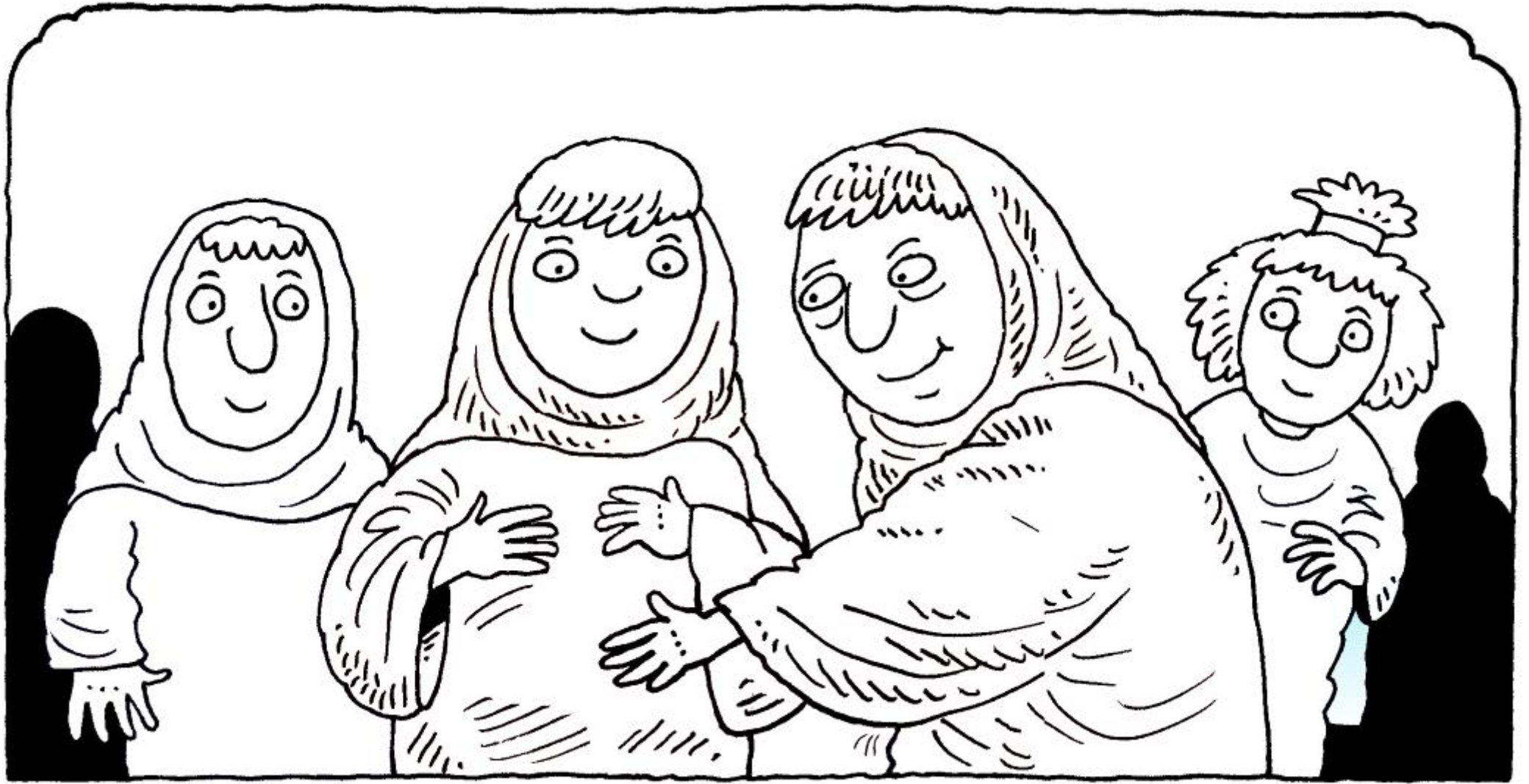
One day, while he was busy  
in the temple, the angel Gabriel  
suddenly appeared in front of him,  
with a message from God.



“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.