

Book 4

# The Story of Christmas



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# God's Promise to Zechariah



A long time ago there lived a faithful priest named Zechariah.

He was married to Elizabeth.

They had been married a very long time but did not have any children.

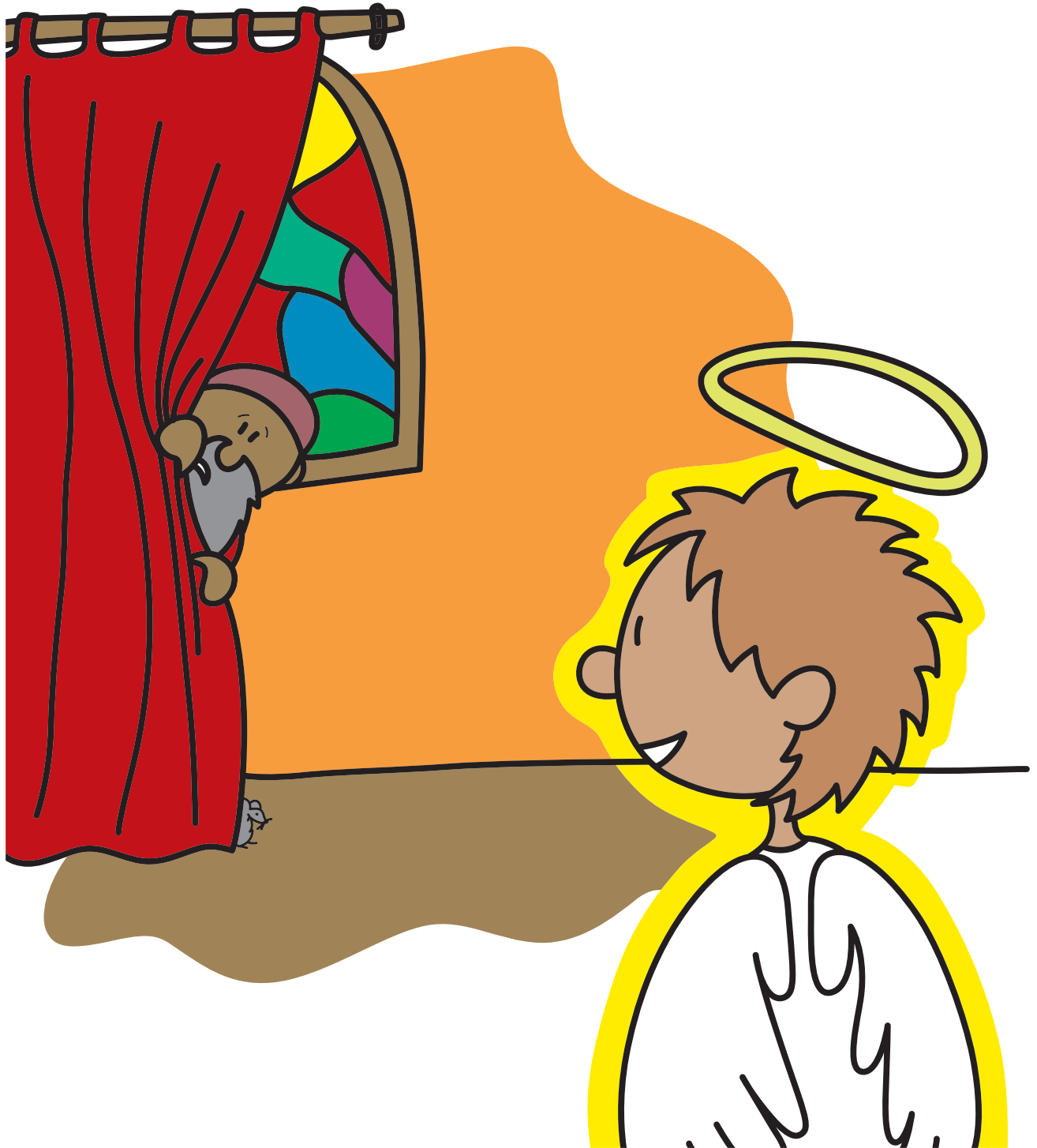
This made Elizabeth sad.



One day Zechariah was inside the temple.

An angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him.

This frightened Zechariah.



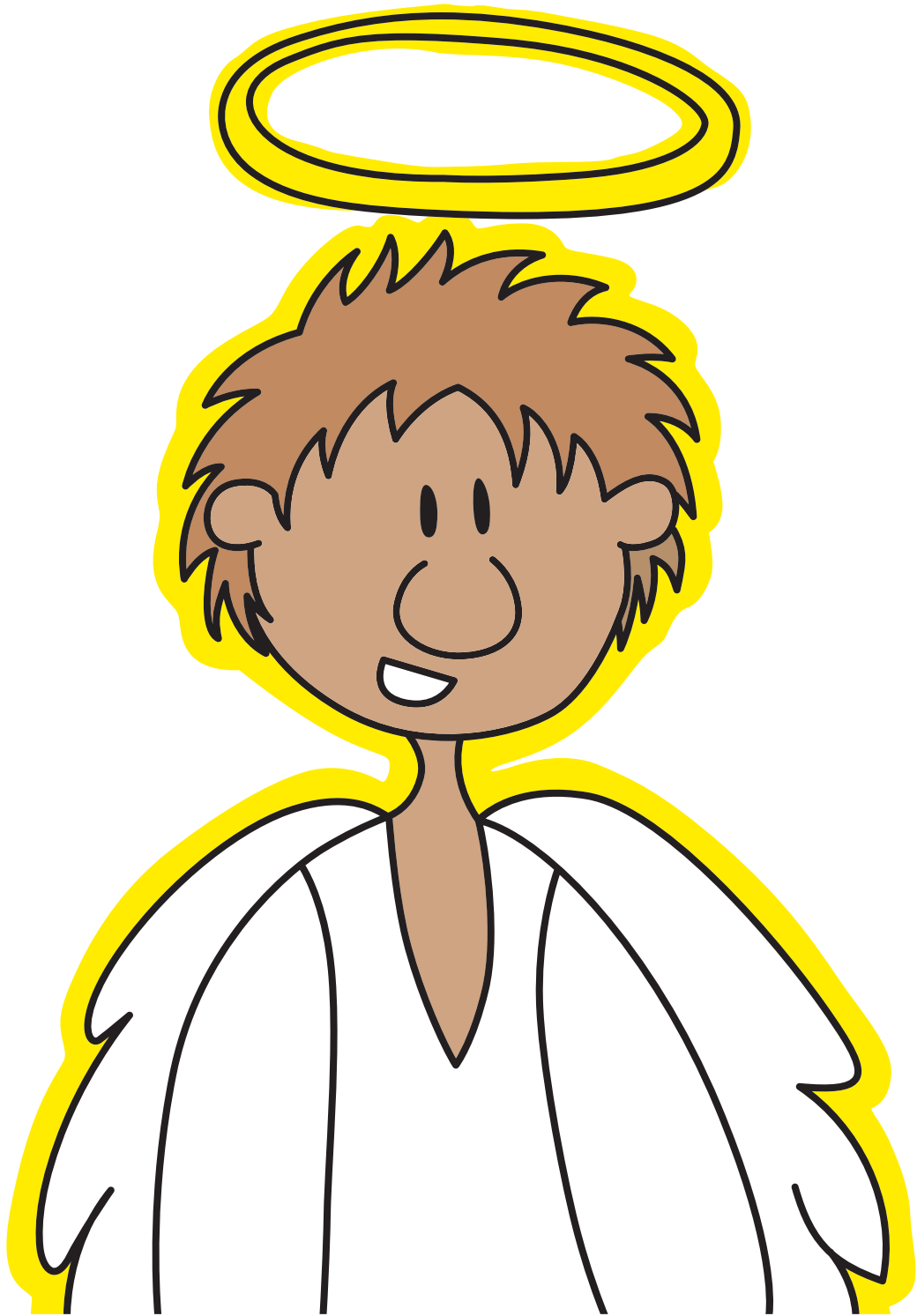
But the angel said to him,

“Do not be afraid, Zechariah.  
Your prayers have been heard.  
Your wife Elizabeth will have a  
baby boy, and you are to call him  
John.

This baby will bring you great joy  
and be a delight to many.

He will grow up to prepare people  
for the Lord.”

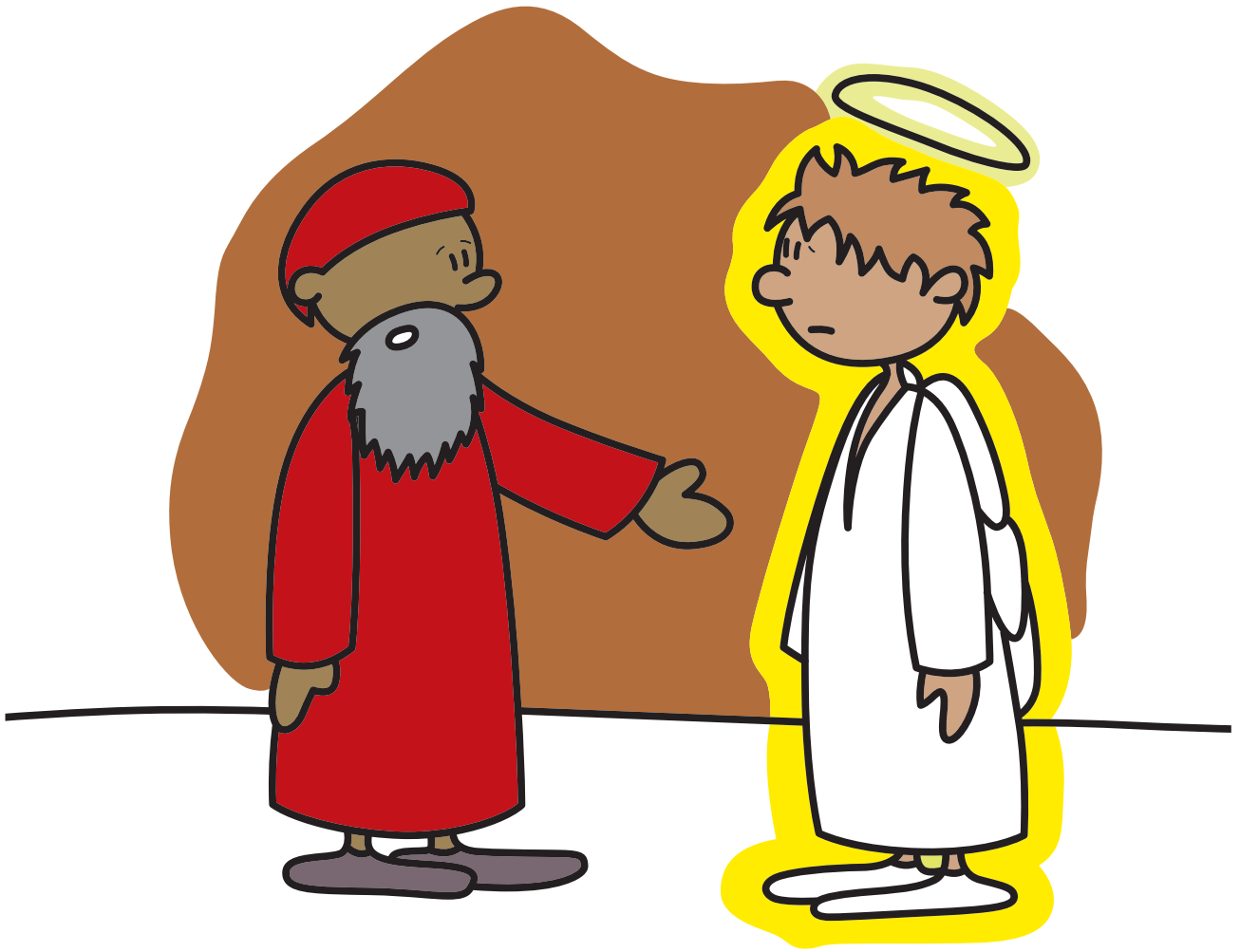




Zechariah asked the angel,

"How can I be sure that my wife is going to have a baby? I am an old man and my wife is old too."

The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, God's servant. I have been sent to tell you this good news. But because you have not believed me, you will be unable to speak until this baby is born."



And this is exactly what happened.

Zechariah could not talk.

He could not speak.

He could not say anything for nearly a whole year.



Soon after, Zechariah returned home and his wife Elizabeth became pregnant.

She praised God and said,  
"The Lord has done this for me."

Luke 1: 1-25

