

## Read

'But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.'" Luke 1.13 (ESV)

'In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth.' Luke 1.26 (ESV)



## Reflect

In the 400-year gap between our Old and New Testament is the sense that God has stopped speaking to his nation. But then, at the start of the first century, there is a sudden flurry of angelic visitation. In the Bible, such angelic visitations are reserved for rare moments of game-changing significance, like appearing to Sarah, to announce she'll become pregnant, with Abraham's promised son. Just as Abraham struggled to believe his wife would bear a son when they had passed the age of child bearing, hundreds of years later, Zechariah struggles to believe it when an angel comes to deliver a similar message. By drawing a parallel between the two dads, Luke is turning up the tension and setting the scene for the arrival of someone very special. John will grow up to be the herald of *the* moment in history God will fulfil his promises to Abraham. **Today your challenge is to welcome messengers.**

### Challenge 1

Make an angel decoration for someone to put on their Christmas tree

### Challenge 2

Make something edible or leave a little Christmas treat to give to any delivery workers or couriers bringing parcels for you

### Challenge 3

Write a Christmas card for your local post delivery person