

# The Women God Chose

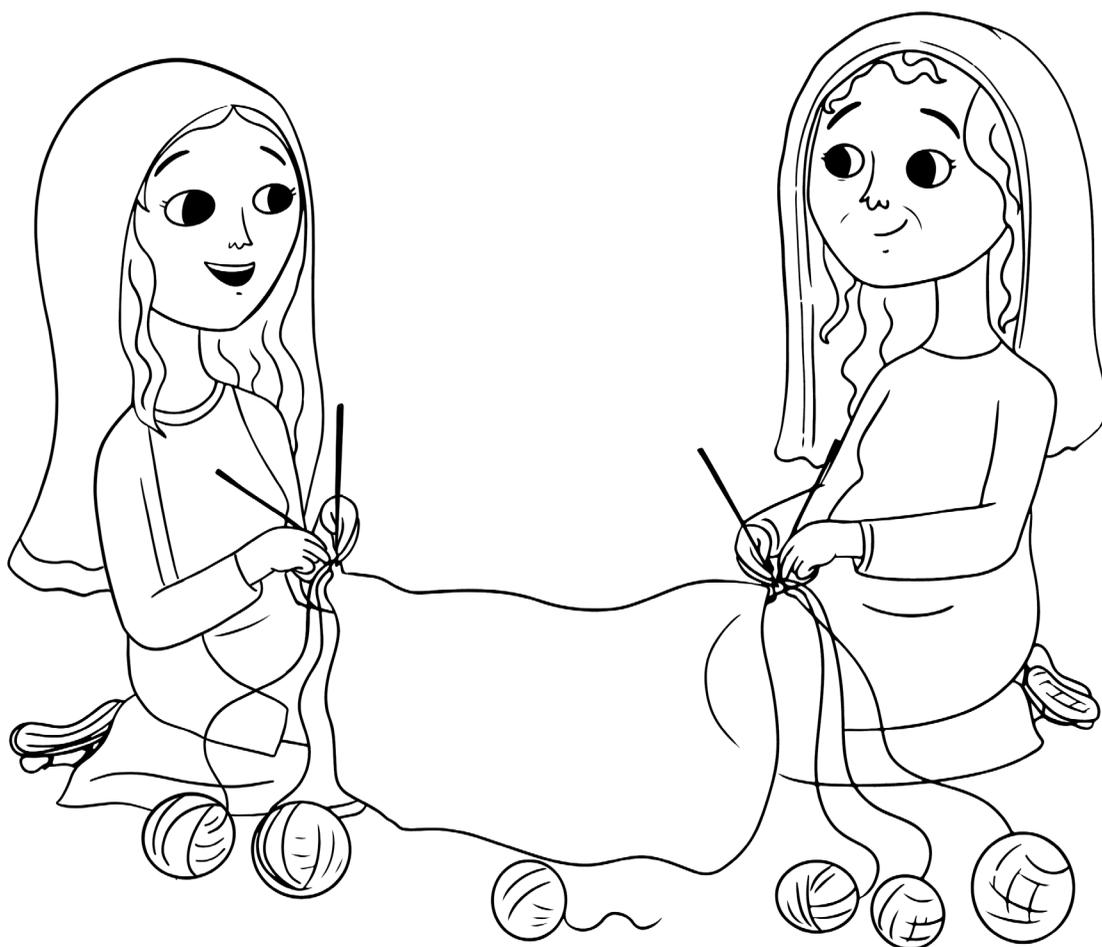


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Mary and her cousin Elizabeth were making a brightly colored baby blanket out of wool.

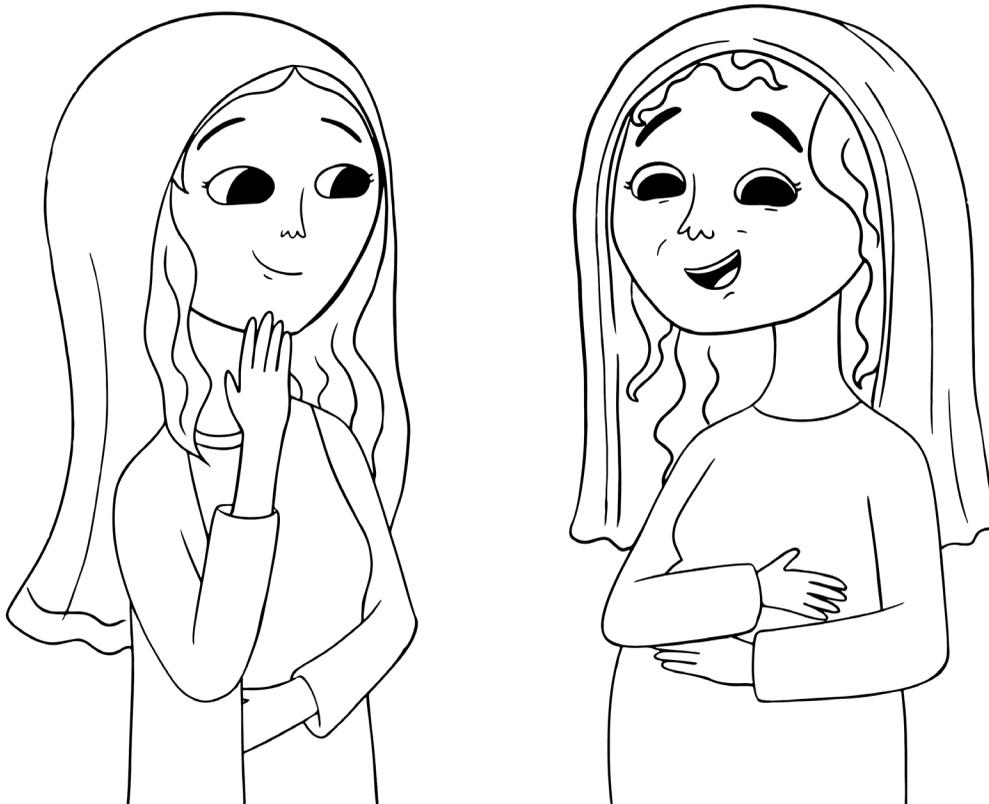
Baby Jesus had just started growing inside Mary, and Jesus' cousin John was already six months old inside of Elizabeth.



As they tied the yarn, Elizabeth suddenly grabbed Mary's hand to feel a little bump on her belly. "I think John's doing a somersault!"

Mary laughed. "Wow! What does he feel like inside you?"

"It feels funny, like when you rub your tongue inside your cheek," Elizabeth said.

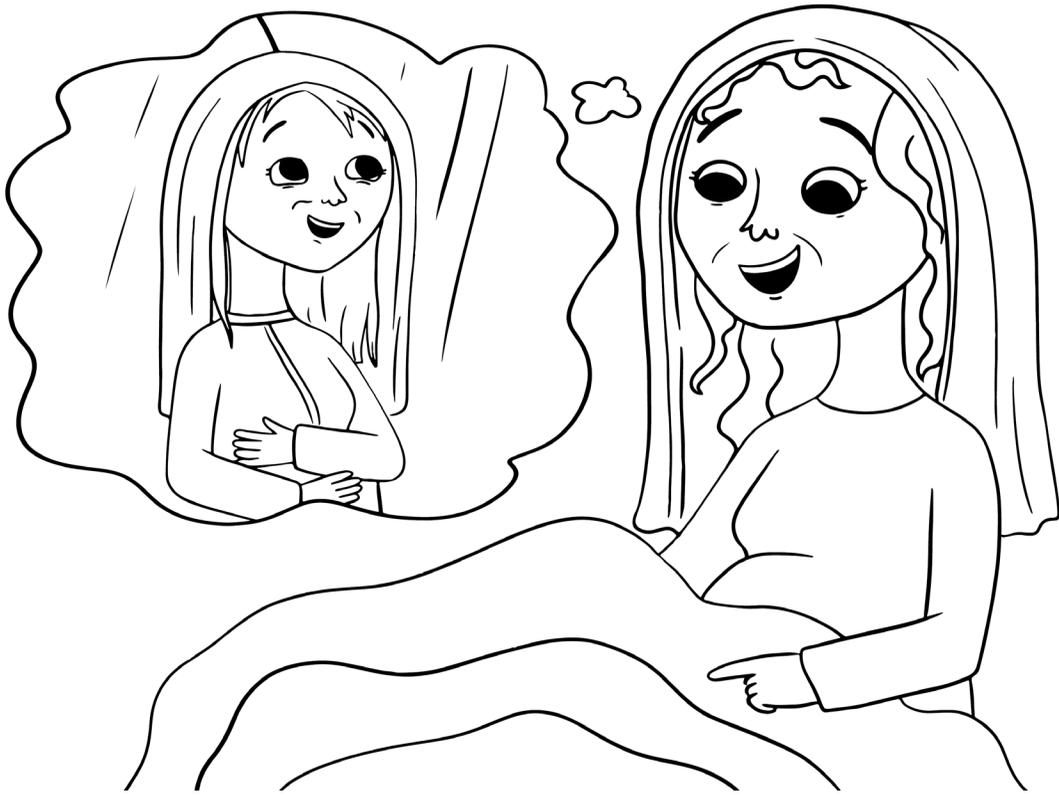




“It’s so strange, thinking about having a baby,” Mary said. “And a little scary. I mean, an angel came to me and he said my baby boy would be the Messiah! Sometimes it’s hard to believe any of this is real. I’m not special at all. I’m just Mary. Why did God pick me?”

Elizabeth smiled. “I’ve been thinking about that a lot, and that’s why I wanted us to make this baby blanket together. It’s not just for your baby boy, but also for you to remember that lots of times God picks surprising people.”

“What do you mean?” Mary asked.

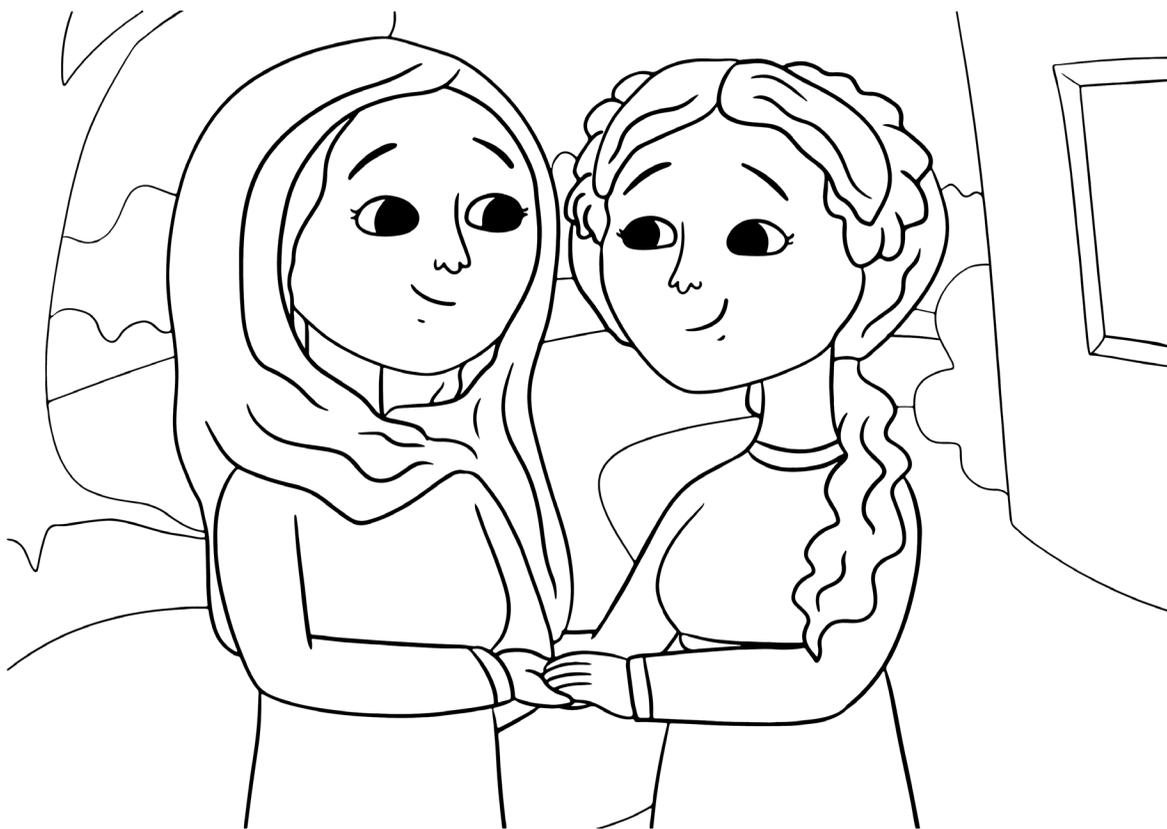


“Okay, look at the six colors we have for this blanket and each one will remind you of a special woman that God decided to use to make the family of the Messiah.”

“First, here is grey wool. It’s a reminder of Sarah. She was like me, grey-haired and too old to have a baby, but God chose her to start his family. God picked both of us: both old, and both loved!

Mary teased her. “Elizabeth, you’re so old it would probably be easier to believe you had a watermelon inside you than a baby!”

Elizabeth laughed and held up a second ball of yarn. “I made this wool brown for the brown eyes of Leah. Jacob didn’t like Leah’s eyes and he thought Rachel was prettier. But God saw Leah and he gave her a boy named Judah who would also be part of the family of the Messiah.





“What about this red yarn?” Mary asked.

“This red yarn represents Rahab. She wasn’t even from Israel, but when she heard about the God of Israel, she believed that he was the true God. She hung a red string out her window as a signal to the Israelite spies who came to her city. God didn’t mind that she wasn’t from Israel, and he made her the great great grandmother of King David!”

“Another woman who was from a different country was Ruth. This yellow yarn represents her because it’s the same color as the grain she picked while she trusted God to take care of her after she moved to Israel. God always welcomes strangers, so even though Ruth was a stranger, God chose her to be King David’s great grandmother.”





“Here is purple wool for Bathsheba. Bathsheba had a very sad time when she lost her husband and a baby boy, but later, God gave her a son who would become King Solomon. Purple is the color of royalty, and King Solomon was one of the greatest kings of all, and part of the Messiah’s family.”

“And, last of all Mary, this color is for you: green. Because you are bringing a new life into the world that will bring new life to all of us.”



Mary gave Elizabeth a big hug. "Elizabeth, this is so special!"





Elizabeth smiled. “Mary, when your baby boy is all snuggled up in this blanket, I want you to remember the women God chose for his family: the old and discouraged, the unwanted and left out, the strangers and the sad and also you: the ordinary everyday girl who said yes to God.”

“I promise I will remember,” said Mary.

The next day the special baby blanket was all finished. Mary folded it carefully in her bag, saving it for the time when she could cuddle baby Jesus, the Messiah of the world!





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