

“Communication Failure”

by
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What	This simple skit features Elizabeth and Zechariah, who has been unable to speak since the angel told him about the miraculous conception of their son, John the Baptist. Works well as part of an Advent service focused on hope. Themes: Christmas, Advent, Hope, Zechariah, Elizabeth, John the Baptist’s birth
Who	Elizabeth Zechariah
When	Biblical Times
Wear (Props)	Advent Wreath with candles (optional) Biblical Clothing for Male and Female Pillow
Why	Luke 1: 5-25
How	Elizabeth’s character is talkative and energetic, but the actress should be careful to avoid appearing foolish. The actress playing Elizabeth can use the pillow prop to help her appear pregnant. An advent wreath can be lit before or after the skit and the accompanying scripture at the lighting can be Luke 1: 5-25.
Time	Approximately 4 minutes

*As the skit begins, **Zechariah** and **Elizabeth** are center stage.*

Elizabeth: Did you ever notice how sometimes God's plan includes a whole lot of patience? Zechariah and I know a thing or two about patience. (***Elizabeth** rubs her stomach lovingly*) Can you believe it? I'm finally going to have a baby! Shocking at my age, right? But, after all these years, it's an answered prayer.

***Zechariah** nods, puts his hand on **Elizabeth's** shoulder in support.*

I'm sure my husband here would just love to tell you all about the experience himself, but he's having what I affectionately call a "communication failure." (*Giggles at her joke*) He can't talk right now. Literally.

***Zechariah** puts his hands at his sides, sighs, and shakes his head 'no'.*

Luckily, though, he loves it when I speak for him and add my own feminine flair to a story.

***Zechariah's** eyes widen as he slowly shakes his head 'no' and **Elizabeth** laughs.*

At any rate, with all this excitement, I do feel bad for him. After all, I want to tell everyone I run into the news and I'm sure it's got to be killing him to keep his mouth shut. On the other hand, after all these years of marriage, I can finally get a word in edgewise!

***Zechariah** folds his arms and rolls his eyes playfully.*

He knows I'm teasing. In all seriousness, I'm so happy, I've probably been driving him crazy with all my excited chattering

***Zechariah** nods his head vigorously. She laughs at this teasing and gently punches him.*

Ha ha! Anyway, let me start at the beginning. Zechariah and I live here in Judea. Zechariah is a Levite and his people were chosen to serve God as priests in the temple. It's an oftentimes overwhelming, but wondrous calling, you know. Not everyone gets a chance to enter that temple and stand in the very presence of God. Have you heard anyone talk about what it's like inside? Apparently, the altar is golden and the place is enormous. There's a huge curtain, too. Of course, I've never been able to go in there, even as Zechariah's wife. You'd think there would be some perks to—

***Zechariah** gently pokes **Elizabeth** and she looks at him questioningly.*

Did I leave something out?

***Zechariah** moves his arm in a circular motion, urging her to move on with her story.*

Dear, would you like to continue with the story? Oh, wait! That's right.
You can't!

***Zechariah** crosses his arms.*

Okay, okay, I'm sorry, honey. I couldn't help myself. I guess I WAS getting a tiny bit off track. Where was I? Oh yes. Well, a few months back, Zechariah was honored when he was picked to go into the temple and burn incense. After he was purified, he headed inside, and the craziest thing happened! He was visited by an angel and was told that I would become pregnant. Me? I thought that would never happen at this point, but as you can see (*gesturing to stomach*), the angel was right! My husband, though, decided to question the angel. (***Elizabeth** pats her husband's shoulder in comfort*). And how did that work out, dear?

*Forgetting, **Zechariah** starts to answer, moving his mouth, but no words come out.*

Right. Total loss of his voice.

***Zechariah** looks at the audience, nodding his head up and down and grimacing to confirm **Elizabeth**'s account.*

The good news is that he's supposed to get his voice back after the birth of our son. Well, it's kind of good news. I mean, right now, I can pretty much make whatever I want for dinner. That reminds me! Didn't you say you wanted liver and Brussel sprouts again tonight?

***Zechariah** looks disgusted and shakes his head vigorously back and forth.*

Okay, just teasing! Anyway, I'm pretty excited that God heard my prayer...about finally having some peace and quiet... (*They both laugh gently*) Oh...and that I'm going to have a son!

***Zechariah** smiles widely to wife and audience. **Elizabeth** notices and smiles widely as well and grasps **Zechariah**'s hand.*

We're going to have a son. And the angel said he's going to be amazing and we're to call him John. It's not really a family name and I might have picked something a bit different. Maybe Zechariah, Jr. after his father or possibly something from the other side of the family –

***Zechariah** softly taps **Elizabeth**'s shoulder to get her back on track. **Elizabeth** turns to her husband smiles and then looks back at the audience.*

Right...so his name is going to be John and he's going to turn people back to God. He's going to prepare the way for our Savior. Our people's long wait is almost over, and our precious son is going to be part of God's incredible plan!

***Zechariah** nods happily.*

The timing seems strange, but we've learned a lot about trusting God and his timing. Well, we're off to get more writing tablets. We just ran out and we obviously write a lot these days! Of course, we've been married a long time, so I can probably just read his mind.

***Zechariah** shakes his head 'no' playfully while **Elizabeth** nods back 'yes.'*

Ready to go, Zechariah? We have some more stops to make on the way to get the tablets and Mary is coming by later.

They start to walk off excitedly together hand-in-hand.

We can't wait to see her! But, as you know, we're getting pretty good at this patience thing!

***Zechariah** waves at the audience.*

Lights down.