



Prayer Focus

December 12–18, 2022

The Babe Leaped in Her Womb

“And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit” (Luke 1:41 NKJV).

If the conception of John the Baptist is a miracle, so is his time in the womb. When Mary reaches the home of Zacharias and Elizabeth, who is now in her sixth month of pregnancy, the babe leaps in the womb on hearing Mary’s greeting. Research shows that children in the womb can hear, which is why even newborns can recognize their mother’s voice. If the father has been present during the pregnancy, the newborn will also recognize his voice. This is another reminder that the child in the womb is a human being, not a lump of cells, and must be treated as such.

The sound of Mary’s greeting made John leap because he was the forerunner of Jesus, the prophet who would identify Jesus as the Messiah. While yet unborn John recognized by the Spirit that the One in Mary’s womb had been conceived of the Holy Spirit. Later the adult John would say of Jesus, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

One immediate result of John’s leaping in the womb is that Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she blesses both Mary and “the fruit of [her] womb” (Luke 1:42). Thus, Elizabeth is the first person recorded to have blessed the Lord Jesus, and she does it while He is yet in the womb.

This week let's bless the babies who are in the womb right now. Pray for their safety and that of their mothers. Pray also that pregnant women will, like Elizabeth, be filled (or refilled) with the Holy Spirit during this season. And please take time to sing or pray [this song by Elevation Worship](#) over the unborn babies and their moms.

-Sharon Arpana Edwards