

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Luke 1:5-25 and 1:67-75. What questions immediately come to mind? Does your familiarity with these verses hinder you seeing it with fresh eyes?
2. What stands out to you about Zechariah & Elizabeth? Why is that notable? Zechariah is in the middle of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to burn incense in the Most Holy Place. What might he be thinking as he offers the prayers & incense?
3. Look again at the information the angel gave Zechariah concerning his son. What has the angel told Zechariah about the baby? How would this child impact him & his wife? How would this child impact the world?
4. Read Malachi 4:4-6. What is the last word from God? Why is the announcement of the birth of John so significant?
5. When was the last time you wondered if God was serious about caring for you, & wondered if you had been forgotten? How might an obedient faithful couple like Zechariah & Elizabeth also feel forgotten at this stage in their lives?
6. How did John's birth fulfil the angel's message in vs 13-17? How does all this begin to anticipate the good news of Jesus?
7. Note the specific praises in Zechariah's song. What does it mean that he was "filled with the Holy Spirit?" According to the song, what is the purpose of salvation? How do John's birth & Zechariah's song link the Old Testament promises with the New Testament fulfilment? How does that help you read the Old Testament? How does that help you read the New Testament?
8. There is a definite relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist that is described in this song. Describe that relationship. What does Zechariah say about it?
9. Read Luke 1:80. Although it is a single sentence, it is the final paragraph of the chapter. What does it tell us about John the Baptist?
10. Of all the promises in this song, which one strikes you most deeply? Why is that? How does your encounter with the Scriptures & worship enable you to "prepare the way" for someone else to meet Jesus in a life-saving soul-transforming way?

Living Water Fellowship

2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

6TH DECEMBER 2020

COME TO JESUS

WELCOME:

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Heavenly Father we long for your promise fulfilled...of a world at peace: Where enemies are reconciled, & children play in safety: Where the poor & powerless find justice. We remember your promise of a Ruler of Peace, filled with the Spirit of God, of wisdom & understanding, of counsel & might, of justice & faithfulness. Come Lord Jesus! Open our lives to the Peace which you bring; let us turn to you, in readiness for all things to be made new! Amen.

SONG:

O Come, All Ye Faithful

(On-Line worship - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-xFsNx-HO4>)

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING:

Luke 1:5-25 and 1:67-75

FAITH CHAT:

1. What would be for you an ideal Christmas?
2. You just received some good news. Who do you tell first?

THE MESSAGE:

CHRISTMAS IS MORE THAN...A PROMISE

PRAYERS:

The Communion: *(on-site)*

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion:

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

*(Name) † child of God,
May the promise of God's saving grace
fill you & guide you this week. Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *Christmastime is Near (AT 611)*
On-Line worship – (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lu2sB8lIMw>)

SHOW HIS LOVE

LUKE 1:5-25 & 1:67-75

When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.

One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying.

While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly."

Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years." Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary, wondering why he was taking so long. When he finally did come out, he couldn't speak to them. Then they realized from his gestures and his silence that he must have seen a vision in the sanctuary. When Zechariah's week of service in the Temple was over, he returned home. Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months. "How kind the Lord is!" she exclaimed. "He has taken away my disgrace of having no children."

Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy:

"Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people. He has sent us a mighty Saviour from the royal line of his servant David, just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago. Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us. He has been merciful to our ancestors by remembering his sacred covenant—the covenant he swore with an oath to our ancestor Abraham. We have been rescued from our enemies so we can serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live.