

Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

Luke 1:5-25

Hope For The Hopeless

Welcome to our Advent study series, titled: His Gospel Is Peace. The series title is taken from the lyrics of the great Christmas carol "O Holy Night": *Chains shall he break for the slave is our brother, His law is love, and His gospel is peace.* The sermon series will work through Luke 1-2 as we move towards Christmas.

Our weekly studies will have four parts, following the four categories that we've set for GLC's, and end with prayer.

exploring

we will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.

digging

we will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.

growing

we will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

going

we will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.

exploring

5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

8 Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of



the Lord and burn incense. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. 11 And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13 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. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

18 And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” 19 And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” 21 And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. 22 And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. 23 And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

24 After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, 25 “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.” (Luke 1:5–25)

1. Who is the priest serving in the temple?
2. When was he going into the temple?
3. What were people doing outside the temple as he went in?
4. Why was John going to come “in the spirit and power of Elijah?”

digging

5. Read Luke 1:1-4. Who is this gospel written to, and why did Luke write it?
6. To learn more about John the Baptist’s purpose and calling, read John 1:1-18.
7. What other women were infertile/barren in the Old Testament, but were eventually blessed with a son? How are their stories similar and/or different to Elizabeth?



growing

8. Discuss Zechariah's response to Gabriel. Consider his age and stage of life. Do you think your response would have been different? Why or why not?
9. Consider Luke's reason for writing this letter (1:4). Does this passage help you to have certainty about the things you have been taught? Why or why not?

going

10. Often the prevailing culture in which we live will say that the Bible is demeaning to women. When we see how God blesses barren women in the OT, and here in Luke, does that cultural argument bear any weight?
11. How could you use this passage to help people understand God's character? What attributes of God are seen through this passage?

Pray "Kingdom Prayers"

Kingdom prayers are prayers that don't only focus on the immediate need, but also on God's glory. For example, if someone has a sore knee instead of just praying "God, please heal Betty's knee", you would pray something like "God, please heal Betty's knee so that she can continue to serve you and your people; so that she can continue attend worship services pain free and give you glory for your healing hand." See the difference?

Some ideas of what to pray for:

- Each other's needs/requests
- King Road's ministries, missionaries, members, and pastors
- Opportunities to share the gospel

