

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE LIFE, WORK,
TEACHING AND CLAIMS OF JESUS CHRIST

Elizabeth and Zechariah: An Unexpected Answer from a Loving God

LUKE 1:5-25 | JANUARY 26 & 27, 2013

In this week's sermon, Pastor Mike helps us enter into the story of Elizabeth and Zechariah. He helps us understand this "small-town pastor" and the journey this elderly couple has followed. He was passed over to serve at the temple, she was passed over for having children, and seemingly both were overlooked by God. But then, God reveals that he did not overlook them, rather He said "wait"—for he knew what he would do through them.



Watch this week's summary message from Pastor Mike at <http://luke.christchurchil.org/study-guides/>. (Videos will be live on Sunday afternoon.)

WITH THE GROUP



LEARNING | BEGINNING TO CONNECT WITH THE TOPIC

What is something that you have hoped or prayed God might bring about in your life, that to this point, he still has not done?



LEARNING | GETTING CLEAR ON WHAT WAS TAUGHT

How is the Old Testament related to the plan God chooses to reveal in the New Testament? Is it continuation or an about-face? Explain.

The wait had been 400 years since God's people had the final message in Malachi 4:5-6. Luke "opens" his book with 1:17 and connects the 400 year gap "seamlessly." Read Malachi 4:5-6 and Luke 1:17.



LOVING | GROWING OUR HEART FOR A LOVING GOD

What was the most helpful or inspirational part of the sermon for you?

Zechariah doubted God's message through the angel. Why do you think people doubt God? How might the following verses encourage someone in doubt—Psalm 37:4, 1 John 5:14-15, 2 Peter 3:9?



LIVING | STARTING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS DAILY

Doubt can be like a "weed" in your "faith garden." What is the "fruit" of doubt left untended?

Consider Galatians 5:22-23 which highlights the fruit of the Spirit. Which of these fruit is growing in you now?

ON YOUR OWN



PRACTICE

Remember your "God dreams." Dust them off and make a point of praying a few minutes every day this week for that which only God can do or change in you. Spend additional time simply being quiet to allow God time to respond to your heart.



PRAYER

My Patient Father, I thank you that you do not forget me and that I can be confident you hear my prayer. Please forgive my growing doubt and continue to remind me of the good you allow in my life. Please remind me of the many things you have blessed me with and protected me from.