

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of December 13-19, 2020

“ZECHARIAH’S SILENCE”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What one skill have you’ve always wanted to learn (or develop) but didn’t get around to?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Luke 1:5-20;57-66.

1. How are Zechariah and Elizabeth described in the story? What kind of life do you think they led? What kind of challenges do you think they faced?
2. Why do you think Zechariah had so much difficulty believing Gabriel? Do you think making Zechariah mute for the nine months of Elizabeth’s pregnancy too harsh a consequence? What do you think was God’s purpose for letting Zechariah go through this?
3. Imagine that you were struck deaf and mute (see Luke 1:62 for why it’s possible that Zechariah was both) for a period of at least nine months. How would things change in your life? What would you spend your time doing? What would change about the way you communicated? What would be the first words you spoke when you regained that ability to speak?
4. Compare and contrast Zechariah’s reaction to the angel’s announcement to Mary and her reaction in Luke 1.34,38. What is the difference between her question and his? What do you think is the difference between unbelief and asking the hard questions?
5. Zechariah and Elizabeth had to wait a very long time before the fulfilment of the desires of their heart. What does it look like for you to endure disappointment and/or waiting in a healthy way? How are you most likely to deal with disappointment in unhealthy ways?

6. (Optional). Read Luke 1:67-79. What key themes do you see in Zechariah’s prophecy? What truths about God are found in the prophecy? How does God’s long and drawn-out plan of redemption help us trust in his plans for our lives?

7. [NEXT STEPS]

When life isn’t wonderful, God can still work wonders.

- ☐ I will be faithful in what God has entrusted me to do.
- ☐ I will not give up on prayer.
- ☐ I will trust that God has a plan.
- ☐ I will praise God even when I don’t see his answers yet.
- ☐ I will find time to pause and let God renew my wonder of who he is.

Don’t forget to:

- ☐ Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.
- ☐ Commit 30 minutes a day for God’s intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for God to restore your awe and wonder of who he is.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.