

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 9, 2024

Passage: Luke 1:5–25

Memory Passage: Luke 1:18–20

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:5–25.** Write down all the Good Questions you have about this passage.
- (b) How does the introduction (vs. 1–4) help you understand the purpose of vs. 5–25?
- (c) “Herod, king of Judea” refers to Herod the Great, an Idumean who ruled Judea, Galilee, much of Perea, and much of Syria from 37–4 BC. Why does Luke mention this ruler?
- (d) What do you learn in vs. 5–7 about Zechariah’s and Elizabeth’s lineage, character, and children (see 1 Chr 24:1–6, 10)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:5–25.** Zechariah was engaged in what was most likely a once-in-a-lifetime event when he was chosen by lot to burn the incense in the sanctuary. Why does Luke find these details, including the mention of people praying outside, important?
- (b) Why did “fear fall upon” the “troubled” Zechariah (v. 12) when the angel (identified as Gabriel in v. 19) appeared?
- (c) What “prayer has been heard,” and who heard it (v. 13)?
- (d) What is the connection between Gabriel’s command to not be afraid and the fact his prayer has been heard (note “for”)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:5–25.** Explain each of the reasons given in vs. 15–17 that Zechariah will have “joy and gladness” and “many will rejoice” (for help, see Lev 10:9; Num 6:3; Mal 3:1; 4:5–6; Matt 11:14; Luke 1:41; 7:28)?
- (b) Why does Zechariah respond this way (v. 18)? Given all the good news Gabriel brought and Zechariah’s devotion to the Lord (vs. 6–7), did you expect a different response? Was his response sinful? How do you know?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:5–25.** Explain what happens to Zechariah because of his response (vs. 19–20). Does this seem like a harsh punishment? Why or why not (consider OT examples of barren women God blessed with children)?
- (b) What sign did God give Zechariah (cf. v. 18: “How will I know this”)?
- (c) What other purpose did Zechariah’s speechlessness accomplish (v. 22)?

(d) Why did Elizabeth keep her pregnancy hidden for five months (v. 24), and what “disgrace among men” did her pregnancy remove (v. 25)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:5–25.** Consider this text in light of its narrative structure: What verses constitute the introduction? What verses describe the rise in tension? What part of the narrative is the climax? What events comprise the resolution?
- (b) Elizabeth was barren, which brought “disgrace among men” upon her, yet she still lived obediently (see v. 6). What sovereignly ordained circumstances in your life cause you to be bitter, angry, depressed, etc.? What must you do today to apply the gospel to these situations and respond in faith and joy rather than bitterness or anger?
- (c) In what ways does Zechariah’s doubt of God’s promise, even as one whose life and occupation demonstrated he was righteous and blameless, encourage you to hear and obey God as you encounter him through his word?
- (d) This first narrative in Luke highlights God fulfilling his promises to save his people (vs. 16–17). How do the promises concerning John the Baptist encourage and equip you to receive and apply the gospel and share it with others?

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In the Spirit and Power of Elijah