

# Home Group Helps

## Luke 1:5-25

### *The Revealing of John the Baptist*

**I. The Ruler of Judea (v.5a)** – <sup>5</sup> In the days of Herod, king of Judea,

**II. The Righteous Zechariah & Elizabeth (v.5b-7)** – 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. <sup>6</sup> And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>7</sup> But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

**III. The Ritual of the Temple (v.8-10)** – <sup>8</sup> Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, <sup>9</sup> according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup> And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.

**IV. The Revelation of Gabriel (v.11-17)** – <sup>11</sup> And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, <sup>17</sup> 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.”

**V. The Rebuke of Zechariah (v.18-22)** – <sup>18</sup> And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” <sup>19</sup> And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup> 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.” <sup>21</sup> And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. <sup>22</sup> 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.

**VI. The Result of the Promise (v.23-25)** – <sup>23</sup> And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. <sup>24</sup> After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, <sup>25</sup> “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

#### 1. Launching Question(s):

- Today's text serves as something of a bridge between the Old and New Testaments. How often do you think most Christians read the Old Testament?

## 2. Observation Question(s):

- Luke begins this passage with, “In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah.”
- Based on what we looked at in vs. 1:1-4 last week, how is this opening verse a good example of Luke’s intense devotion to writing a historically accurate account of the life of Jesus?

## 3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Malachi 4:2, 5-6a states, “For you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. . . <sup>5</sup> “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers.”
- How does John the Baptist fulfill this prophecy?
- Why is it significant that the Old Testament ends with these verses?
- Zechariah did not believe the good news given by the angel, so he would be prohibited from speaking the good news. <sup>20</sup> 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.” He lacked faith – the very thing that God expected him to have!
- Why do you suppose that Zechariah did not believe the angel?
- Why is responding to God’s word in faith so necessary?

## 4. Reflection Question(s):

- Gabriel tells Zechariah, “I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.” Here, for the first time, Luke uses the word that became the title for his book. “Good news” (*euangelizo*) is another word for “gospel.”
- Reflect upon the many ways that the angel’s announcement was and is, “good news.”

## 5. Application Question(s):

- John the Baptist was called by God to proclaim the coming of Christ. How can you do the same this week?