

## Waiting and Hoping (Luke 1:5-25, 57-80)

*Christmas Brings Hope – Part 2*

Life Church St. Louis – December 13, 2015

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

*Ephesians 2:12 (NIV) remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.*

*Romans 15:12 (NIV) And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him."*

*1 Peter 1:3 (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord

*Luke 1:5 (NIV) In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.*

#### 1A. Keep on \_\_\_\_\_ God

*Luke 1:6 (NIV) Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly.*

#### 1B. Even when it seems \_\_\_\_\_

*Luke 1:7 (NIV) But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.*

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ God's promise

### 2A. God is at \_\_\_\_\_ in your life

*Luke 1:8-9 (NIV) Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.*

### 2B. God has a \_\_\_\_\_

*Luke 1:13 (NIV) But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.*

*Luke 1:17 (NIV) And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous--to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

### 2C. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word

*Luke 1:18-20 (NIV) Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time."*

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ God's answer

*Luke 1:24-25 (NIV) After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."*

#### 3A. \_\_\_\_\_ is our great hope

*Luke 1:68-69 (NIV) "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David*

#### 3B. \_\_\_\_\_ others the hope of Jesus

*Luke 1:76 (NIV) And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,*

# Waiting and Hoping (Luke 1:5-25, 57-80) Study Guide

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Intro. What kinds of things do you think people feel hopeless about today?

In what ways are unbelievers without hope, according to Ephesians 2:12?

How does Jesus Christ bring hope to the world (Romans 15:12, 1 Peter 1:3)?

1A. How did Zechariah and Elizabeth demonstrate their hope was in God (Luke 1:5-6)?

1B. In what ways do you think it was difficult for them having no children (Luke 1:7)?

1C. How do you see the biblical pattern of a vision, death of the vision and rebirth of the vision in this story?

1D. Do you have a vision from God that seems to have died in your life? If so, what principles can you apply from this story?

2A. In what ways was God at work in Zechariah's life, even though a child had not yet come (Luke 1:8-9)?

2B. What was God's special plan for Zechariah and Elizabeth's son (Luke 1:13, 17)? Why did they have to wait so long for this son?

2C. Why do you think that Zechariah doubted the angel's message (Luke 1:18-20)?

2D. Why does God require our involvement in the fulfillment of His plan?

2E. In what ways does God communicate the details of His plans for us?

3A. Why do you think that Elizabeth remained in seclusion for five months after becoming pregnant (Luke 1:24)?

3B. How had God taken away Elizabeth's disgrace (Luke 1:25)?

3C. How do we know that Zechariah's prophesy began by talking about Jesus Christ (Luke 1:68-69)?

3D. What was the role that God had prepared for Zechariah's son, John (Luke 1:76)?

3E. What did John understand about his role in God's plan (John 3:30)?

3F. In what ways is each believer's role in life like John's?

3G. Do you know anyone who is feeling hopeless this Christmas season?

3H. In what ways can we bring hope to those who have no hope?