

# Prepare the Way for the Lord Christmas Blessings – Part 4

Life Church St. Louis – December 18, 2022

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Message Videos – [messages.lifechurchstlouis.org](https://www.messages.lifechurchstlouis.org)

*2 Peter 3:9 (ESV) The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

*Romans 10:13-14 (NLT2) For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?*

## 1. God gives second \_\_\_\_\_

*Luke 1:57-58 (ESV) Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.*

*Luke 1:59-60 (ESV) And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.”*

*Luke 1:61-63 (ESV) And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered.*

*Luke 1:64-65 (ESV) And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea,*

## 2. God always keeps His \_\_\_\_\_

*A. Luke 1:67-69 (ESV) And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,*

*Luke 1:70-71 (ESV) as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;*

*Luke 1:72-73 (ESV) to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us*

*Luke 1:74-75 (ESV) that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.*

## 3. God prepares those He \_\_\_\_\_

*Luke 1:76-77 (ESV) And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,*

*Luke 1:78-79 (ESV) because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”*

*Luke 1:80 (ESV) And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.*

## Weekly Healing Scripture

*Mark 11:24 (ESV) Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

# Prepare the Way for the Lord Study Guide

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Intro. According to 2 Peter 3:9, why has Jesus not returned yet?

What is our role as believers in bringing Jesus back (Romans 10:13-14)?

1A. Why did Elizabeth's relatives and friends rejoice at the birth of her son (Luke 1:57-58)?

1B. What is significant about Elizabeth refusing to follow peer pressure in the naming of her son (Luke 1:59-60)?

1C. How did Zechariah's action in Luke 1:61-63 reflect his faith in God?

1D. How do you think Zechariah's grew in his faith since the encounter with the angel (Luke 1:64-65)?

1E. In what ways does God give second chances today?

2A. What is the relationship between being filled with the Spirit and prophecy (Luke 1:67-69)?

2B. What does Zechariah realize about the significance of the birth of his son John (Luke 1:67-71)?

2C. Why is it important to realize that we can receive God's promises given thousands of years ago (Luke 1:72-73)?

2D. How does the promise of God in Luke 1:74-75 relate to your life?

2E. In what ways can you grow in receiving the blessings of God's promises for your life?

3A. What was God's mission for this new baby, John the Baptist (Luke 1:76-77)?

3B. How does Luke 1:78-79 look forward to the coming Messiah?

3C. What role do you think having elderly parents and living in the wilderness played in John's preparation for his mission (Like 1:80)?

3D. How do you think God has and is preparing you to prepare the way for the Lord?