



**Community Group Study Guide**  
For the Week of December 4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>

**Please read Luke 1:5-25.**

1. In Luke 1:6, Zechariah and Elizabeth are spoken of as righteous and blameless.
  - a. Does this mean that they were justified by their observance of the Law?
  - b. If not, what does it mean to be righteous and blameless?
  - c. Do you think that Elizabeth's barrenness might have been seen as a punishment from God for sin? (See John 9:1-2; Luke 1:25) Please explain.
  - d. Do you think that Luke 1:6 might be an argument against such a claim? Why or why not?
  
2. There are several references to the Lord in this passage. (Greek: κύριος)
  - a. Is Luke referring to Jesus? Please explain your answer.
  - b. Notice how he uses the same term in verses 1:43 and 44. What does this say about the identity of Jesus?
  
3. In verse 13, Gabriel tells Zechariah that his prayers have been heard.
  - a. What was the role of the priest offering incense at the altar of incense? (See Exodus 30:7-8; Revelation 5:8 and 8:3-4; Psalm 141:2; Luke 1:10)
  - b. Do you think that he was praying for a son? Please explain your answer.
  - c. As a priest before the Holy of Holies, what else might he have been praying for? (See Psalm 33:20-22; 39:7-9; 130:7-8; 146:5-9; Jeremiah 14:7)
  
4. From his mother's womb, John is to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:15).
  - a. What does Luke mean when he describes someone as being filled with the Spirit? (See Luke 1:41-5, 8:12; 1:67; 4:1, 31; Acts 2:4; 7:55-56; 11:22-24)
  - b. Compare John's Spirit-filling with the other examples of Spirit filling. What does being filled with the Spirit provide power for?
  
5. Luke 1:17 says that "he will go before him" "in the spirit and power of Elijah."
  - a. In verse 17, who is Luke referring to when he writes, "he" and "him"? (See verse 76 and John 3:26-30)
  - b. What does it mean that John will be "in the spirit and power of Elijah?" (See Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6; Matthew 11:13-15; 17:10-13).
  - c. What does Gabriel mean when he says John is to "turn the hearts of the fathers to the

children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just?"

d. What fathers and children did Malachi speak of in the parallel passage? (See Malachi 1:6; 2:10-11; 3:6-7)

6. Zechariah did not expect Elizabeth to bear a son given her prolonged childlessness and advanced age. Compare Gabriel's response in verses 19 and 20 with the response of the LORD to Abraham in Genesis 17:15-19, and to Sarah in Genesis 18:10-15.

a. Do you think that Gabriel was overly harsh in his response to Zechariah's doubt? Why or why not?

b. What purpose might there have been in Zechariah's muteness?

c. Is Zechariah's muteness an immediate confirmation of the truth of Gabriel's words? Was immediate confirmation necessary? Was it requested?