

Sermon Guide

Luke 1:5-25



► The beginning of the Christmas story commences after years of scriptural silence—most of the people who believed in Yahweh had stopped looking for the Messiah. Have you ever felt a period of prolonged silence from God? How did you respond? How does this help you relate to the people in the Christmas story?

Read Exodus 29:38-42 and 30:7-8

1. What was the significance of the task for which Zechariah was chosen? Since many priests never had the chance to go into the temple and burn incense, what might he be feeling as he prepares for it?

Read Luke 1:5-25

2. How would you react if you were Zechariah and an angel appeared to you?
3. How do Elizabeth and Zechariah's responses differ? Which response is more similar to how you would react if you were in Zechariah or Elizabeth's shoes?

Read Malachi 3:1 and 4:5

4. Who was the "Elijah" that God told Malachi to prophesy about?

GROW 



► Consider Zechariah's and Elizabeth's character (v. 6) and struggle (v. 7). When have you been obedient to God and still felt forgotten? How does this story encourage you?

► What personal disappointments are you facing? How can you respond like Elizabeth and continue to serve God faithfully in spite of it?

- How is John the Baptist's mission a model for your mission today? How might you "prepare" people for the Lord?

GLORIFY 

• Advent means "coming" or "arrival." It is a time to both remember and celebrate the arrival of the birth of Christ, our Savior, and a time to anticipate the coming return of Christ our King. Listen to the song, read the lyrics, and/or sing along to "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."