

Lesson Aim: To discuss and apply to our lives lessons learned from the different responses of Zechariah and Mary to messages from God.



connecting

Prayer: Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

Icebreaker: If told that you were going to be responsible for a newborn baby this year, how would you react?

1. This week's teaching was about two people who each received a surprise message from God. What is a recent surprise that you or your family have/has experienced?
2. **READ Luke 1:5-10.** What stands out to you about Zechariah and Elizabeth? What feelings might the couple have had in light of being unable to have children for so many years?



growing

3. **READ Luke 1:11-25.** Describe this child's mission in your own words. Why would Zechariah have his doubts?
4. Doubt is something that can affect all of us at one time or another. The following Bible verses describe instances in which people showed their doubts: **Mark 9:17-24; Luke 7:18-23; John 20:24-29.** **READ** each section one at a time and answer this question: What do you learn about doubt and/or Jesus' response to it from these stories?
5. Have you ever felt like doubt or unbelief have been a hindrance to your faith? When? How?

6. Do you think doubt or unbelief can ever help you grow spiritually? If so, how?



sewing

7. **READ Luke 1:26-38.** How does Mary respond differently than Zechariah?
8. How would this change Mary's life? What reasons would she have to fear these changes?
9. When was a time you were believing but fearful in response to something God was doing in your life? How did God meet with you?



reaching

10. In what area of your life right now do you need to believe that nothing is impossible with God? What keeps you from believing this?

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

TWO SPECIAL BABIES ARE COMING (1:5-38)

THE PROMISE OF SOMEONE TO PREPARE THE WAY

- Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6; cf. Isaiah 40:3-5

JOHN THE BAPTIST IS COMING (Luke 1:5-25)

❶ Setting

▷ During the reign of Herod the Great (40-4 BC)

▷ In the Temple (or House) of God at Jerusalem

❷ Recipient ▷ Zechariah & Elizabeth

• Priestly family

• Upright / Blameless

• Childless

• Elderly

PRINCIPLE #1: God is in control of your story.

PRINCIPLE #2: God works best in “impossible” scenarios.

❸ Messenger ▷ The Angel Gabriel (vv.11,19)

❹ Message ▷ A special baby is coming

❺ Response ▷ Fear, doubt & unbelief (vv.18-25)

PRINCIPLE #3: God expects His people to believe His Word & walk in faith. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

JESUS CHRIST - THE MESSIAH - IS COMING (Luke 1:26-38)

❶ SETTING ▷ Nazareth (Galilee)

❷ RECIPIENT ▷ Mary

❸ MESSENGER ▷ The Angel Gabriel

❹ MESSAGE ▷ Divine Conception of the Messiah

❺ RESPONSE ▷ Fear + Confused Belief & Surrender

PRINCIPLE #4: God-pleasing faith can show up where you least expect it! (Hebrews 11:1, 6)

THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO GOD'S REVEALED WORD...

▷ Belief & surrender