

Lesson Aim: To grow in our understanding and faith in the fact that God always keeps His word.



connecting

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

Icebreaker: Briefly share, what is the story behind your name? Or your nickname(s)?

1. **READ Luke 1:57-68.** One of the principles from Scott's message Sunday was that "God keeps His Word... He follows through on His promises." This includes promises of blessing as well as to lovingly discipline us when we disobey. Has there ever been a time in your life when God lovingly disciplined you? How did He use that time to help you grow?
2. When Zechariah and Elizabeth chose to name their son John, they went against cultural norms and expectations which would be to name him after Zechariah or another family member. Has God ever led you to do something that was against cultural norms or expectations? When? How? What happened?
3. There was great joy and praise to God when the newborn arrived and when Zechariah regained his speech. What are some reasons you have in your life right now to be filled with joy and to praise God?
4. Our expectations in life are often shaped by our understanding of God's promises. Read the following verses and write down what you can expect from God, although it might not be on your terms:

1 Corinthians 10:13:

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8:

1 John 1:8-9:

1 John 5:11-12:

5. **Read Luke 1:67-79.** How does Zechariah's song (the Benedictus) show God's unfolding plan from Old Testament days to the coming of the Messiah?
6. Of the promises listed in Zechariah's song, which one or two mean the most to you? Why?
7. How has God unfolded His plan of salvation in your life? Who helped prepare the way? What were some key events that led to your commitment to Jesus?
8. **Read Luke 1:80.** John needed to get time away and alone with God to prepare for his public ministry. Have you ever needed to get away for some extended time with God? Why? What happened?
9. Is there anything going on in your life right now that might require you to get away for some extended time with God? What is it? How can you make sure this time away happens?



growing



sewing



reaching

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

This LifeGroup Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based LifeGroups! Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgeFresno.com by clicking on the "Resources" link.

Luke's Gospel 1:57-80

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK

❶ BIRTH OF THE CHILD (Luke 1:57-58)

PRINCIPLE #1: God keeps His word... He follows through on His promises. (cf. Joshua 21:45)

❷ NAMING OF THE CHILD (Luke 1:59-63)

PRINCIPLE #2: As unbelief & disobedience lead to discipline, so faith & obedience lead to blessing.

❸ ZECHARIAH EXPLODES IN PRAISE (Luke 1:64-66)

❹ ZECHARIAH PRAYS THE BENEDICTUS (Luke 1:67-79)

- ▶ He worships God for His gracious redemption (vv.68-75)
 - ★ Theme: Salvation = God coming to rescue and redeem
 - ★ Goal of Being Saved: That we might serve God without fear (v. 74)
 - ★ Faith Lesson: God follows through (Keeps His Word)
(cf. Genesis 12:1-3; 22:16-17; Romans 10:13)
- ▶ He prophesies about his son's future (vv.76-79)
 - ★ Title: Prophet
 - ★ Role: Forerunner of the Messiah
 - ★ Message: Salvation through the forgiveness of sins

❺ LITTLE JOHNNY GROWS UP (Luke 1:80)

❻ FINAL NOTE: WHEN MARY & LUKE MEET

- ▶ Barriers: Age, race, gender, nationality, religious background, life experiences
- ▶ Ephesians 2:14 - "He himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility..."

PRAYER: *Jesus, you are my only hope. I call upon You right now to save me from eternal hopelessness and damnation. Deliver me from Satan and hell. Forgive me of my sins. I am sorry for how I have offended You. I need You now to save me. I surrender to You in faith and ask You to come into my life as my Savior and Lord forever! Your Word promises that whoever calls upon Your name will be saved, so I am trusting You to keep this promise. Thank You for Your patience, love, mercy and amazing grace toward me. I am forever in Your debt. Amen.*