



SDG Discussion Guide

Luke 1:5-25; 57-66

December 3, 2017

For starters:

What's a surprise recent or otherwise that you or your family has experienced: A job change? A new addition to the family? Enjoyment of a new activity? Other? What do you remember most about it?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text including its contextual details. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective text.)

As time permits, read aloud the selected texts in your group, taking turns as you can. Make note of what points and questions are raised for you for your following discussion.

1. What do you learn from verses 1-4 about Luke? About the reason he wrote this Gospel? About his sources?
2. What stands out to you about Zechariah and Elizabeth (vv 5-7)? What feelings might the couple have had in light of their barrenness? Can you relate to their circumstances and if so how?
3. What was the significance of the task for which Zechariah was chosen (see 1 Chron 23:13)? 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? How about when the angel appears?
4. How would the birth of this son affect Zechariah and Elizabeth? Describe the child's mission in your own words. Why would Zechariah doubt?
5. Between Zechariah and Elizabeth, who do you identify with most? Why?
6. Describe a time when you, like Zechariah, took a step of faith and began speaking, praising God.
7. From what you know of John's life, how was "the Lord's hand" seen? How have you seen the Lord's hand in your life anytime, but perhaps mostly in 2017?

As you reflect on 2017 in this way, what may God be showing you about what you can anticipate this Advent and even in the New Year?

Spend plenty of time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you to pray. Ask God to instill in you a heightened sense of anticipation for this Advent and the coming of our Lord. Ask God to posture in your heart a desire to regularly call upon the Holy Spirit to help you draw especially near to our Christ this season. Perhaps ask him to finely tune your senses to those around you, that you may know his compassion and attention for self giving unto another. And may the peace of Lord Jesus Christ be known to you ever more this special season.

*These questions were adapted from The Serendipity Bible for Groups (Zondervan, 1998).