



# JESUS

## LIONMAN *of* JUDAH

February 9, 2014 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

## PART 4: **JOHN'S BIRTH FORETOLD**

*Luke 1:5-25*

### **ZECHARIAH & ELIZABETH** (v. 5-7)

- **Zechariah** was a Jewish priest who probably lived in a small rural area, leading a small synagogue. He was the equivalent of a small town, small church pastor. A few times a year, he would be required to go to Jerusalem to serve at the Temple.
- **Elizabeth**, Zechariah's wife, was the daughter of a priest. This would have been a great benefit to Zechariah in her ability to understand the pressures and demands of ministry, and be a good helper to him.

*Verses 6-7 give two important details about Zechariah & Elizabeth:*

1. They were **RIGHTEOUS**.
2. They were old and had no **CHILDREN**.

### **ZECHARIAH IS CHOSEN** (v. 8-10)

God is **SOVEREIGN**.

*He is in control of all things, all the time, and everything happens according to his purpose and in his timing. No detail is unknown to him nor does any event catch him by surprise. Ever.*

## **GABRIEL APPEARS TO ZECHARIAH** (v. 11-17)

God always **ANSWERS** prayer...  
...on his schedule, in his way.

## **ZECHARIAH DOUBTS** (v. 18-20)

God will listen to your **DOUBTS** ...  
...but calls you to trust him.

## **ZECHARIAH FINISHES HIS DUTIES & GOES HOME** (v. 21-25)

In Jesus, God will forgive your sin,  
and take away your **REPROACH**.

# HOMework



## Open Your Group in Prayer.

1. What were some of the biggest days in your life? Rattle off a few BIG days for you... (Weddings, birthdays, kids are all very big days... but they don't count here. Try to think of other big events in your life.)
2. **Read Luke 1:5-7.** What do you learn about Zechariah & Elizabeth?
3. **Read Luke 1:8-9.** Twice a year (and then again at major festivals like Passover, Pentecost, & the Feast of Tabernacles), Zechariah would travel to Jerusalem to serve at the Temple. Of all the priestly duties, the most prestigious was to enter the temple and burn incense. Once a priest was chosen to do this, he was never chosen again. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity! How do you think Zechariah (who tells Gabriel in v. 18 that he is an "old man") felt when he was chosen?
4. The priests assigned duties by casting lots (like rolling dice). For decades Zechariah had been traveling to Jerusalem, and the lot never fell to him... until it did on this day. **Read Proverbs 16:33.** What does this tell you about God's part in this? Was Zechariah just lucky?
5. **Read Luke 1:10-17.** What do you observe about prayer here? What were the people praying for? What prayer do you think the angel was referring to in v. 13 when he said, "*your prayer has been heard,*"?
6. What does that passage teach us about praying together as a church? What does it teach us about how God answers prayer?
7. **Read Luke 1:18-20.** What is Zechariah's response to the angel? What is the angel's response to Zechariah?
8. Zechariah isn't the only person to ever doubt God. Look up the following passages. For each one, why do you think they doubt? (You may want to read surrounding verses for more context.) **Genesis 17:15-17; Genesis 18:9-15; Exodus 3:10-15; Exodus 16:1-3; Judges 6:14-23; John 20:24-25; Matthew 28:16-17**
9. What doubts do you struggle with? Share them with your group, then as a group answer this question: How/Where does God's Word address that doubt?
10. **Read Luke 1:21-22.** What might this scene have been like?
11. **Read v. 23-25.** How do you picture things when Zechariah got home?
12. **Verse 25** displays the doctrine of "expiation". Not only does Jesus pay our penalty for sin on the cross, he takes away our sin, our reproach, our shame. Why is that important? What does it mean for you?

# 6:7 family questions

Read Luke 1:8-14,18-20 together.

Zechariah & Elizabeth had probably asked God for a baby for many years. But they were much older now, and the chances of that happening didn't seem too good. Even with an angel standing right in front of him, Zechariah had a hard time believing God's promise.

- Why was the promise of a son so hard to believe?
- Have you ever asked God for something that didn't happen?

Sometimes God doesn't give us what we *think* we need or *when* we think we need it. But he knows what's best for us, and he has a much greater plan in mind than we can imagine. Just like he did for Zechariah and Elizabeth.

- How can we trust God more when we pray?

*Pray together as a family, and ask God to help you trust him more in his promises and his timing.*

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*These simple questions are designed to help you live out the command in Deuteronomy 6:7 to teach our kids and make God's Word a natural topic of conversation in our homes. Use them at the dinner table, in the car, or whoever you find your family together with a few moments to spare.*

## PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9, 2014

*During your prayer time this week, let's all be praying together about the following items.*

*Use the space at the bottom to record your personal prayer items, or requests from your 1:10 Group.*

**NOTE:** *Due to the sensitive nature of some items on the Prayer Guide, we do not publish it online. Email the church office to sign up for the email prayer list: [office@wawaseebible.com](mailto:office@wawaseebible.com)*