



The CALL of CHRISTMAS

Zechariah: A Call to Prepare
December 3, 2017 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

LIFEWORk

1. **Share: What is your favorite part of your Christmas preparation? What part to you secretly (or not so secretly) hate?**
2. **Read Luke 1:1-4. What about this introduction makes you think a great story is about to follow? What details make you want to trust this story?**
3. **Read Luke 1:5-10. Zechariah and Elizabeth were a faithful couple, yet they had heartbreak in their life. What are both the big-picture and personal blessings that are about to come into their life?**
4. **Read Luke 1:11-20. God’s messenger, Gabriel, drastically alters the course of their life. Imagine you’re an old man or woman. What are your plans for the twilight of your life? How does that change when a baby comes into the picture?**
5. **What was John’s role to be? What importance would his formation from birth play in that role, that necessitated the high level of responsibility for his upbringing that was given to Zechariah and Elizabeth? How would you parent John knowing what he’s supposed to be when he grows up? (What if every Christian parented their child that way?!)**
6. **Read Luke 1:21-25. What do you think would happen to you if you had 9 months where you couldn’t speak (and likely couldn’t hear, either)? Where would your mind go? About what would you think? What’s the value when people take vows of silence?**
7. **In the epilogue to this story (read Luke 1:57-80), Zechariah gets it right, and his “tongue is loosed” again. He responds with a beautiful, Holy Spirit-filled prophecy of praise. What sticks out to you from what he says?**

Key Question: How does any of this story change any of the ways you’ll prepare for this Christmas?

***PRAY SILENTLY FOR FIVE MINUTES FOR GOD TO PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR CHRISTMAS.**



Zechariah: A Call to Prepare

Luke 1:1-25

December 3, 2017 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

“And the angel answered him, ‘I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.’” *Luke 1:19-20*

**I am called by God to thoughtful
PREPARATION for His COMING.**

Luke 1:1-4 Introduction and Purpose

“Here, [Luke] is saying, is something solid, something you can TRUST.” –N.T. Wright

Luke 1:5-10 A Faithful Couple

“[Angels] remind us that God has provided assistance for us in our spiritual CONFLICTS. We are not ALONE in this world!” –Billy Graham

Luke 1:11-20 A Message from God

Gabriel is a messenger of MERCY and PROMISE.

Luke 1:21-25 A Holy Time Out

In God-imposed SILENCE, there is margin for CONTEMPLATION.

Luke 1:57-80 A Song of Praise

For Zechariah (and us), preparation leads to PRAISE.

**FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND LIFEGROUPS THIS WEEK,
PLEASE USE THE LIFEWORk AVAILABLE AT
SJLCHURCH.ORG/SERMONS OR THE LIFEGROUP KIOSK.**

