



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

"An Unexpected Baby"

Luke 1:5-25; 76-79

SERMON NOTES

Record your insights & observations from this week's sermon.

GOOD BOOK ABOUT THE LIFE OF JESUS

The First Days of Jesus by Andreas J. Kostenberger and Alexander E. Stewart

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Read *Malachi 4:5-6*. After this prophecy was given, there was a period of silence from God for 400 years. Read *Luke 1:12-17*. What made the birth of John the Baptist so significant for God's people?
- 2) Read *Luke 1:5-7*. Children were seen as God's reward for faithful service (see *Psalms 127:3-5*). What was ironic about their faith and their problem? Why would people have concluded that God was punishing Zechariah and Elizabeth?
- 3) Read *Luke 1:8-10*. Zechariah's division of priests served semiannually in the Jerusalem Temple (see *1 Chronicles 24:1-19*). Because of the large number of priests, each priest was allowed this honor only once in a lifetime. Why was this such a special moment for Zechariah?
- 4) Read *Luke 1:11-17, 76-79*. Who was John the Baptist, and how would he help bring joy to the people?
- 5) Read *Luke 1:18-22*. Why was this such a sovereign surprise to Zechariah? How has God sovereignly surprised you? When He surprised you, how did you respond?
- 6) Read *Luke 1:23-25*. How did Elizabeth respond when she received the news? Why did she remain in seclusion for 5 months?
- 7) Read *Luke 1:39-45*. Why is this story so special? What does it say about John being the forerunner of Jesus?

FOR YOUR FAMILY

- 1) Memorize *Luke 1:17*: "And he will go on before the Lord, in spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
- 2) Read *Luke 1:5-25*. Discuss with your family who Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John were, and why John would be significant in pointing people to Jesus (Focus on *Luke 1:17*).
- 3) Read *Luke 1:39-45*. Discuss this story with your family and describe how important life is in the womb and what the relationship between John and Jesus was.