

Luke 1:67-79
Zechariah's Song

Warm Up

What would be your reaction if an angel told you some surprising and unexpected news? Would you believe it without question?

Background and context

Zechariah was a priest of God, serving in the temple in Jerusalem. He and his wife, Elizabeth, were childless. In those days that was seen as something to be ashamed of, a sign that God was displeased with you. When the angel visits Zechariah and tells him his wife will have a son and he is to call him John. His immediate reaction is disbelief. He is struck dumb by the angel until the child is born. His eventual obedience and acceptance of the angel's message leads to Zechariah being filled with the Spirit and to praise God.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Luke 1:67-79. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. Zechariah waited nine months in silence. What is God teaching us when we experience a season of waiting or "silence"?
2. How does Zechariah's song connect Old Testament history with the coming of Jesus? Find examples in the text.
3. What does it mean for God to "visit" His people, and how is this different from merely answering prayers?
4. In what ways does Jesus fulfil the promise of being a "horn of salvation"?
5. How does the concept of being saved from enemies (both physical and spiritual) apply today?
6. What does Zechariah's transformation from silence to prophetic praise teach us about faith and listening to God?
7. **Read v79.** The song mentions "the path of peace." How does biblical peace (reconciliation with God) differ from the world's definition of peace?
8. Zechariah recognized that God's work in his family was part of a much larger redemptive story. How can you see your personal story as part of God's bigger plan?

Discipleship and Application



Practice praise in response to God's words. Help prepare others to receive Jesus as Lord.



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading