



LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of 12/10/2023

This week, we reflect on God's faithfulness through the birth of John the Baptist. Though Zechariah and Elizabeth faced infertility in old age, God brought forth new life as part of His divine plan. Despite doubts, God acted through willing participants to fulfill His promises. As we celebrate Jesus' birth, we too are called to act in God's story, anticipating greater things yet to come.

After your group opens in prayer, please discuss any questions or thoughts that came to mind after hearing/watching the sermon and read the following passage:

Begin by reading the story of John the Baptist's birth in Luke 1:5-27, 39-45, 57-59

1. Discuss the significance of John the Baptist's role in preparing the way for the Lord, as foretold in Luke 1:17 and Matthew 11:10. How does this relate to the broader theme of preparation during the Christmas season?
2. Consider Zechariah's initial disbelief when the angel announced the birth of John. In what ways do we sometimes struggle with doubt or disbelief when waiting? How can we overcome these challenges? (Luke 1:18, 20)
3. During the sermon, we explored the concept of being emptied before being filled, as seen in Elizabeth's barrenness before conceiving John. How might this principle apply to our spiritual lives? (Luke 1:7, 23-25)
4. Consider the importance of celebrating what God has done, as illustrated in Zechariah's prophetic praise in Luke 1:67-79. How can reflecting on God's past faithfulness impact our present and future expectations?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. 12 So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.*

5. Reflect on the idea of being vessels of God's power in our weakness. How can we embrace our vulnerabilities and allow God to work through them during this season?
6. How does Jesus' life reflect the principles of simplicity and selfless sacrifice?

As you close, share any challenges, encouragements, and needs related to this week's message. Close with prayer for one another.