



encounter.

a step-by-step guide through Scripture

disciple:

// someone who follows Jesus and leads others to do the same.

Studying God's Word is one of the best ways to grow your relationship with God, be tuned to the Holy Spirit, and get to know Jesus intimately. John 1 tells us that the Word is God, the writer of Psalms tells us it will light our path, and Jesus tells us in John 8 if we abide in His Word, we are truly His disciples.

This tool is just one of the many ways to study the Bible and dive deeper into the passages we will be studying each weekend together. Our hope is that you begin to deeply understand the scripture we will be unpacking and allow God to speak to your heart before you even walk through the doors on Sunday.

This tool is designed to help guide you as you seek to understand the context of each verse, what it meant to its original audience, and what it means to us today.

There are a few ways you can utilize this PDF.

01 Print the PDF.

-or-

02 Download the PDF, open in a notes app (GoodNotes, Notability, etc), fill it out digitally.

-or-

03 Use the PDF to transcribe into a notebook or journal.

5 Marks of a Disciple

- Know Jesus Intimately
- Follow the Holy Spirit Relentlessly
- Obey God's Word Completely
- Love His Church Wholeheartedly
- Seek the Lost Intentionally



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Week of December 4th // Conversation December 10th
Silent Night

We are starting a short series for this holiday season, “Silent Nights.” We are staying in the Gospel of Luke but are going way back to the beginning. Being the first chapter, and with eighty verses, Luke 1 is one of the longest chapters in the New Testament. Parts of this chapter describe the birth of John the Baptist, the announced birth of Jesus, and the prophecy of Zechariah. Luke states in verse 80 that John grew up and went into the desert of Judah. This is the only account of John’s family found anywhere.

pray.

This week’s devotions cover a variety of topics, especially after God had been silent for 430 years. Ask God to speak to you from His Word. Allow yourself to feel the blessings promised in these scriptures. Ask Him to meet you where you are in your walk with Him. Ask Him for an open heart and mind.

observe.

- 01** Mark any reference to God or Lord with a .
- 02** Underline every time Zechariah’s and Elizabeth’s names are mentioned.
- 03** Mark every reference to John with a . Try to include his pronoun references also.

Luke 1:5-38 (NLT)

⁵ When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. ⁶ Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. ⁷ They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸ One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. ⁹ As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying.

¹¹ While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. ¹² Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. ¹³ But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. ¹⁴ You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. ¹⁶ And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their

God.¹⁷ He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.”

¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.”

¹⁹ Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news!²⁰ But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.”

²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary, wondering why he was taking so long.²² When he finally did come out, he couldn’t speak to them. Then they realized from his gestures and his silence that he must have seen a vision in the sanctuary.

²³ When Zechariah’s week of service in the Temple was over, he returned home.

²⁴ Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months.²⁵ “How kind the Lord is!” she exclaimed. “He has taken away my disgrace of having no children.”

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

³⁰ "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God!

³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

³⁴ Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For the word of God will never fail."

³⁸ Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

Luke 1:57-80 (NLT)

⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth's baby to be born, she gave birth to a son.

⁵⁸ And when her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very merciful to her, everyone rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹ When the baby was eight days old, they all came for the circumcision ceremony. They wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father. ⁶⁰ But Elizabeth said, "No! His name is John!"

⁶¹ "What?" they exclaimed. "There is no one in all your family by that name." ⁶²

So they used gestures to ask the baby's father what he wanted to name him.

⁶³ He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone's surprise he wrote, "His name is John." ⁶⁴ Instantly Zechariah could speak again, and he began praising God.

⁶⁵ Awe fell upon the whole neighborhood, and the news of what had happened spread throughout the Judean hills. ⁶⁶ Everyone who heard about it reflected on these events and asked, "What will this child turn out to be?" For the hand of the Lord was surely upon him in a special way.

⁶⁷ Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy:

⁶⁸ “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has visited and redeemed his people.

⁶⁹ He has sent us a mighty Savior
from the royal line of his servant David,

⁷⁰ just as he promised
through his holy prophets long ago.

⁷¹ Now we will be saved from our enemies
and from all who hate us.

⁷² He has been merciful to our ancestors
by remembering his sacred covenant—

⁷³ the covenant he swore with an oath
to our ancestor Abraham.

⁷⁴ We have been rescued from our enemies
so we can serve God without fear,

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness
for as long as we live.

⁷⁶ “And you, my little son,
will be called the prophet of the Most High,
because you will prepare the way for the Lord.

⁷⁷ You will tell his people how to find salvation
through forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸ Because of God’s tender mercy,

the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us,
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide us to the path of peace.”

⁸⁰ John grew up and became strong in spirit. And he lived in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.

Matthew 3:1-6 (NLT)

¹In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, ²“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” ³ The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the LORD’s coming!

Clear the road for him!’”

⁴ John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. ⁶ And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

interpret.

- 01** What was Zachariah's reaction to the angel, Gabriel's, presence and prophecy?
- 02** What was the result of Zachariah's disbelief? (Hint: Luke 1:20)
- 03** What Old Testament prophet spoke about the future ministry of John the Baptist?
- 04** How did Elizabeth discern that Mary was carrying the Christ Child?

apply.

01

Why do you think that even though Zechariah and Elizabeth were considered righteous in God's eyes, He refused their requests for children?

02

Think back on a time when you were so filled with praise for God's plan for your life that you had to share your feelings as Zechariah did.

03

Elizabeth, followed by Zechariah, named their son, John, much to the displeasure of their friends and neighbors. Have you ever had an experience that wasn't popular, but you had to follow the Lord's plan for your life?

bring it together.

God had been silent for 430 years, and then He communicated in a mighty way. This first chapter in Luke emphasizes the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and the importance of faith in God's plan. It also highlights the role of women in God's plan of salvation.

This chapter contains both the prophecy and history of the conception of Jesus, the Messiah and that of the prophecy and birth of John the Baptist, who was Christ's forerunner.

Zechariah's song of praise is filled with thankfulness for the birth of his son, John, and in expectation of the birth of Jesus.

John will make ready a people prepared for the Lord and the preparing of them to receive and entertain the gospel of Christ.

Promised mercies are to be expected when the full time for them is come, and not before.

connect.

We are available to answer any questions you might have.

 info@gtwy.church

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