

**COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE****Zechariah's God**

LUKE 1:57-80

**OVERVIEW**

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinful men. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe his claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection insures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

**APPLY // LUKE 1:39-56**

1. Read Luke 1:39-56.
2. What causes Elizabeth and Mary to be excited? Is this the same thing that causes excitement in your life? Why or why not?
3. What allows Mary to praise God even when his plans interrupt her life? How can we go about offering God praise even when it's "inconvenient" for us?
4. What about Mary's song challenges or encourages you? Why?
5. Notice that Mary praises God for his faithfulness. What allows her to do so? How can we make sure that we're well positioned to praise God for his steadfast faithfulness?

**STUDY // LUKE 1:57-80**

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Luke 1:57-66
2. What's the significance of learning that Elizabeth gives birth to a son? What do you think Elizabeth learned about God from the birth of her son?
3. What's the reaction of Elizabeth's neighbors and relatives? Why? What do you think they learned about God from the birth of Elizabeth's son?
4. What's the significance of the child being circumcised on the eighth day? (see Gen. 17:12-14; 21:4; Lev. 12:3)
5. What name did friends and relatives expect the baby to have? What name did Elizabeth choose? Why?
6. What did Zachariah say the name should be?
7. What happened to Zechariah after he confirmed the child's name? What's the first thing Zechariah did? What surprises you about this?

8. What effect did this have on bystanders?
  9. Read Luke 1:67-80.
  10. Notice that Zechariah is “filled with the Holy Spirit.” Who has been said to be filled with the Spirit previously? What did they do when filled with the Spirit? What does Zechariah do?
  11. What similarities do you see between Zechariah’s song and Mary’s song (in verses 46-55)?
  12. Why does Zechariah bless the Lord? Discuss all the reasons you see in this song.
  13. Who are the enemies Zechariah speaks of?
  14. According to verses 74-75, what’s the outcome of God saving his people?
  15. According to verse 76, before whom will Zacharias' son go to prepare the way? What does this tell us about God (cf. Is. 40:3; Mal. 3:1).
  16. How is salvation described in verse 77? What’s the significance in understanding salvation in terms of sin and forgiveness?
  17. According to verse 78, what’s the reason for this salvation? What does this tell us about God?
  18. What does it mean “the sunrise shall visit us from on high”? (cf. cf. Isa. 60:2–3; Mal. 4:2)
  19. According to verse 79, what’s the result of “the sunrise” visiting us?
  20. In verse 80, what does it mean that the child became "strong in spirit"?
  21. How does this verse fulfill what was spoken by the angel in Luke 1:15-16?
- General Bible study questions:
    - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
    - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
    - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
    - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
    - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Share the ways your excited about the work of the Lord. Share ways you’re praising God for his mercy and grace.