



DESERT VIEW BIBLE CHURCH

THE KING WITH US • LUKE 1:68-80 • 12/25/2022

MAIN POINT

God has proved His faithfulness countless times—including in the birth of His promised Son, the Savior of the world, Jesus.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

How would it make you feel in a relationship if someone consistently neglected to do the things one said he or she would do? What if he or she never showed up when promised?

How important is it to be able to trust someone's word in a relationship?

Trust is one of the pillars of any relationship. In marriage, we have to be able to trust our spouse that he or she is going to keep his or her word. We must count on our co-workers to come to meetings on time, to finish projects as they say they will, and to accomplish the tasks assigned to them. Sometimes, people fail to keep their word

even though they have the best of intentions. Even so, continually being late, not showing up, and generally failing to keep one's word will erode trust, and eventually will damage a relationship.

One of the things we should be grateful for is that God always keeps His word. From the moment of the fall, God promised that He would send one who would strike the head of Satan (Gen. 3:15). Though it took thousands of years, God kept that promise —He sent Jesus to redeem us from our sins.

UNDERSTANDING

READ LUKE 1:68-75.

What does Zechariah mean when he says, “He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David?” In what promise was Zechariah rejoicing?

How many times can you recall God delivering Israel from her enemies in the Old Testament? What was Israel's greatest problem?

From the time of Genesis 3:15, God promised a deliverer who would crush Satan. God promised Abraham that through his offspring, all the nations of the earth would be blessed (Gen. 22:18). This promise went from Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, and finally to Judah (Gen. 49:10). David came from the line of Judah, and Jesus came from the line of David. That's a long time to wait for the promise! But God delivered, true to His word, and Zechariah rejoiced in God's faithfulness.

Israel's greatest problem was not simply that they kept seeking other gods and breaking the Lord's commandments. Their biggest problem is also our biggest

problem. Unless God changes our sinful hearts and gives us new ones, we will never love or pursue God (Ezekiel 36:26).

READ LUKE 1:76.

What child is Zechariah prophesying about in these verses? How was this child also an example of God's faithfulness to His word?

How would this promised child prepare the way for the Lord?

Zechariah must have been full of joy on this day, as his own son John was a fulfillment of the promise of God. The Lord said, "Look, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome Day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:5-6). John the Baptist was the Elijah that God promised to send (Matthew 11:8-10).

John's preaching prepared the people for the coming of Jesus. John preached repentance, and warned them of the wrath of God that was coming upon those who would not love and obey Him. John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the answer to God's promises to save the people. That is why when John saw Jesus he proclaimed, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the One I told you about" (John 1:29-30).

READ LUKE 1:77-80.

How did John give the people the knowledge of salvation?

Why do you think that Zechariah described our lives as being lived in darkness and in the shadow of death?

What is the way of peace?

John prepared the people to acknowledge their sins and to seek forgiveness through Christ. John warned the religious leaders that they were in danger of going to hell themselves (Matthew 3:7). John's goal was to make everyone see that keeping the law was not enough, not since everyone broke the law! Everyone needed a Savior, and John pointed out that the Savior they needed was Jesus.

Sin brings death, and because the world is full of sin, the world is full of death. Zechariah's poetic words are true because death hangs over all of us like a shadow. We lose our loved ones to death. The longer we live, the more we see the truth in Zechariah's words.

But God promised to end death by ending sin. God's promise was to send a Savior, and God fulfilled that promise in Jesus Christ. Over many generations and hundreds of years, God remembered everything that He had promised, and God demonstrated His trustworthiness when He sent Jesus to save us from our sins.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**What are some areas where you might have difficulty trusting in the Lord?
How can you give over your trust to Him, the One who is faithful to His
word, this week?**

**How does God sending Jesus help us see that God can be trusted to keep His
word?**

**What promises has God made to us as His children? How can remembering
those promises help us through times of difficulty?**

PRAYER

Praise God that He is a trustworthy Father. Thank Him that He never goes back on His promises. Ask that He would reveal areas to you where you need to give over trust to Him, then ask for the strength and guidance to do so.

COMMENTARY

LUKE 1:57-79

Luke 1:57-66 Zechariah, as the angel had said, had his son named John. Then, after months of silence, he spoke. This resulted in both a private response and a public reaction. The people were amazed and fear came upon all those who lived around them. These events became the talk of people throughout the hill country of Judea. The people who heard about these events took them to heart. They wondered, What then will this child become? They recognized the Lord's hand was with him. They could not imagine the full import of what was taking place before their eyes.

1:67-68 Zechariah then was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied. Just as his son would later preach the profound message of God, even so Zechariah proclaimed the glory of the Lord, the God of Israel. The priest blessed the Lord for having visited and for having provided redemption for His people. Whereas Mary's song in verses 46-55 likely was patterned after the Psalms, Zechariah's prophecy probably was modeled on Old Testament prophecies and well may have been the last prophecy of the former age and the first of the Messianic age. His prophecy has two parts. Verses 68-75 focus on God's providing salvation in the coming Messiah. Verses 76-79 address John's role and God's great gift. John would be the forerunner of Jesus, the Messiah.

1:69-70 The priest praised Israel's covenant, all-powerful God because in John's birth and Jesus' coming birth, He was visiting His people. In His active care, God was in the process of providing redemption. At cost to Himself, God was making possible

liberation for His people. He was offering salvation first to the Jews and then to all people. An animal's horn signified strength. The phrase horn of salvation could mean mighty salvation, strong Savior, or powerful Deliverer. The words refer to the Messiah, who would be in the house (or lineage) of God's servant David. God was fulfilling His promise of a descendant of David whose throne God would establish forever (see 2 Sam. 7:12-13).

1:71-75 In poetic parallelism, Zechariah described the Messiah's work on behalf of God's people. Not only does Jesus redeem us, but He also is able to deliver us from elements in our lives that defeat us. Through dependence on Him, we can be victors instead of victims as we face anything and anyone attempting to overcome us. Zechariah celebrated God's following through on His promises to Israel. In sending the Messiah, God dealt mercifully with Israel's fathers. Not only was He extending mercy to people at the time of the Messiah's coming and through the coming centuries to our time; God also was making good on the promises of His holy covenant. Zechariah had God's covenant with Abraham in mind (see Gen. 22:16-18). God's provision of the Messiah would result in people's being rescued from the clutches ("hand") of their enemies—not the Romans, but the bondage of sin. Deliverance from sin's dominance would free people from fear of judgment and would give them the matchless privilege of serving God. Believers' service involves worshiping God and ministering to people.

1:76-79 Zechariah moved from praising God for His gift of the Messiah to address John, his son and the Messiah's forerunner. John would be God's prophet, telling the good news of the Messiah's arrival. The name Most High for God reflects the Hebrew term that means "the Exalted One." In Luke 1:32, the angel Gabriel announced that Mary's child would be "the Son of the Most High." In contrast, John would be the Most High's spokesman; thus, Jesus would be superior to John. Later, when John began his ministry, he acknowledged Jesus' superiority to him (see John 1:19-30). John's God-assigned task would be to prepare people to experience salvation by means of the forgiveness of their sins. All people were missing God's goal for them. Through Jesus, God would dismiss (send away, wipe off) their sins. John would announce this astonishing good news, call people to repentance as a basis of their forgiveness, and tell them about the coming One.