

## Small Group Bible Study / Discussion

Sermon Series: Advent / Christmas 2008

Sermon Title: God's Word and Promises are Good!

Passage: Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

### Think about it

- What difficult situations have you had (or seen) that have turned out for good?
- What would it be like to completely lose your voice for 9 months?
- What promises of God do you find difficult to believe?

### Examine it

- How does Luke describe Zechariah and Elizabeth? (5-7)
- What did Zechariah get to do? (8-10)
- How did Zechariah respond initially to seeing Gabriel the angel? (11-12)
- What four things did Gabriel tell Zechariah in verse 13?
- What did Gabriel tell Zechariah about his future son? (14-17)
- How did Zechariah respond to Gabriel's message? (18)
- How did Gabriel respond to Zechariah's response? (19-20)
- What did the people at the temple do? (21-22)
- What happened to Elizabeth, and how did she respond? (24-25)
- What did neighbors and relatives do when John was born? (57-62)
- What did Elizabeth and Zechariah insist on? (60-63)
- What happened to Zechariah after John was named? (64)
- How did neighbors and others respond to all this? (65-66)

### Discuss it

- What do you appreciate about Zechariah's and Elizabeth's lives?
- In what different ways does God "show up" in this story? (Where do you see His "thumbprints"?)
- What does this story teach about community?

### Live it out

- What causes us to doubt God's provision for us?
- What difficulty in your life needs to be entrusted to God?
- What could you do to help that happen?
- Is there something in your life (or the life of another) that you should be celebrating?
- Is there someone in your life that you should be encouraging in a difficult situation?

### Pray about it

*What does this study prompt you to pray about?*

...something to praise God for? ...thank God for? ...confess? ...ask for?

Additional passage for meditation or memory: Romans 8:28; Numbers 23:19

Next week's passage: Luke 1:26-56