



LUKE 1:67-79

GETTING STARTED...

Have you ever been forgotten somewhere? Maybe growing up your parents thought that you were with them and left or got separated from a group of friends? Being on your own can feel like a scary thing. It is isolating and you feel vulnerable at least for a moment. This is very much what the people of Israel could have felt like as they waited for the coming of a Messiah. God had given them promises but as 400 years passed by, I'm sure it felt like God had abandoned them. And yet, as we look through how God is preparing his people, we see that is far from the case. God had not abandoned them, and he would send messengers to prepare them for the coming of Jesus. As we look at the story of Zechariah and his son John, we see God's hand was at work even when we couldn't see it.

READ THE TEXT: LUKE 1:67-79

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people

⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;

⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. According to Zechariah, what is going to be their son's role in God's plan of salvation?
2. How does Zechariah connect what God is doing in his and his son's life to what God has done in the past? What are the Scriptural references you can see in his prophecy?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. Tell of a time when you felt as if God had forgotten about you. How did this make you feel? What did you do as a result of this feeling?
6. Have you ever felt condemned by God? What leads you to feeling that way? How do you deal with that feeling?
7. What would be an appropriate response on your part to a God who has not forgotten you, nor condemned you, nor left you in the dark?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*