

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Luke 1:525

Ice Breaker: What's an evidence of God's grace you've seen this week?

Ice Breaker: What does "the big day" look like in your work/career? Was it all you hoped it would be? Why or why not?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Read Luke 1:5-25:** What stands out to you in this text? What is something that you have not seen before?
2. Who are Zachariah and Elizabeth? What does their lineage communicate to the reader? What does it mean that they are "righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord"?
3. Why is Elizabeth's baroness such a "big deal" to them and the culture their in? How might they have felt toward God because of this?
4. Have you had a season of "long suffering" or are you in one now? What has that done to or for your faith? How did you or have you found encouragement and hope?
5. Have you had a season of resignation or giving up on the Lord or considering giving up your faith? Have you felt abandoned by God and so felt like abandoning him? How might we lift ourselves to the Lord during these times?
6. How might we prepare our hearts now for a future season of either enduring a season of long suffering or walking with a brother and sister through suffering? What Scriptures might we use to bring hope?
7. Why is it such good news that God is sovereign over all things? How might this particularly bring encouragement or hope to the sufferer? Do we really trust God in the good or bad, in joy or sadness, in pain and suffering?
8. The Angel Gabriel proclaimed the God's Word to Zachariah, but Zachariah did not respond with faith. How do you or have you responded to God's Word? What does it mean to you when we say as a church "This is the Word of the Lord/Thanks be to God"?
9. How does verses 24-25 encourage your heart today? How does the fulfillment of God's promises bring courage and confidence in your faith?
10. **Application:** Find 3-5 passages in Scripture that you can use to encourage yourself or someone else in times of suffering.