

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Luke 1:57-80

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

Ice Breaker: What are you thankful for? Where have you seen God work in your life in the past few weeks?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Read Luke 1:57-80:** What stands out to you in this text? What is something that you have not seen before?
2. Who are Zechariah and Elizabeth? Why would this moment ("Now the time came") matter so much to them? What has been answered forth, after so much time?
3. What has been the feeling for you when God has answered a prayer or fulfilled a promise to you? How does that increase your faith for future prayers and trails?
4. We are called to rejoice with those who rejoice (Rom 12:15). In what ways do we allow Satan to steal our joy when others receive from God what we have been asking for and are waiting for? How do we keep our hearts from becoming resentful toward the mercy God shows others?
5. Can you name a time when someone else's joy caused you pain or grief (a time when someone else received what you were waiting for)? Did the Lord help you turn that pain/grief or those thoughts of anger/disappointment into rejoicing? How did he help you? (Or are you still feeling anger now? How can he help you?)
6. Describe the story arc of Zechariah throughout Luke 1. What do you see as the climax of his story? What kind of transformation does God bring him through? Why does it matter?
7. What does it look like for us to be transformed by the discipline of the Lord? How can we train our hearts to learn from, instead of run from, the discipline of the Lord?
8. What reasons does Zechariah give the people of Israel to rejoice? Why is it such good news for them?
9. How does the tender mercy of God encourage and shape your heart in the highs and the lows? How does it give you hope and strength for today? How do you, as a whole group, enjoy and share God's abundant mercy?