

Anthems—Preparation
Study Questions
Luke 1:11-22, 57-79

Warm-up

1) What sorts of preparations have you traditionally made leading up to Christmas?

What preparations are you making this season?

A little deeper

2) [Luke 1:11-22] Before his visit to Mary, the angel Gabriel had visited John the Baptist's father Zechariah. He brought news of John's birth and something about John's life and ministry. **What are some similarities and differences between Zechariah's reaction to the news about John, and Mary's reaction to the news about Jesus (Luke 1:29, 34, & 38)?**

3) [Luke 1:57-66] After John was born, Zechariah confirmed that he would be named John rather than using a family name. As soon as this happened, Zechariah was able to speak again, praising God. This set people abuzz wondering who this John baby would become. **How did Zechariah's complete silence for several months glorify God? How might things have been different if Zechariah had left the temple with some doubt?**

4) [Luke 1:67-75] Zechariah prophesied about what God was about to do through Jesus (without naming Him) but none of this is what Gabriel had told him about. **How might God have used events in Zechariah's household over the prior few months to prepare him to prophesy so clearly about the coming salvation and fulfillment of God's promises?**

How does God use our times of preparations during Advent to bring Him glory?

5) [Luke 1:75-79] The end of Zechariah's song is about his son John, but it was meant to be heard by everyone. **How did these faith-filled words of Zechariah help prepare the way for his son John to fulfill his ministry?**

The name Zechariah is not as well-known as John the Baptist, or Peter, or Paul, but his faithfulness was still important. **What are some ways we faithfully proclaim Jesus to the world without necessarily drawing attention to ourselves?**

Bringing it home

6) When have you recently doubted or resisted God? What happened as a result? Were you able to give praise to God even through times of God's discipline?

7) What promises are you looking forward to God fulfilling in your life? How are you preparing?