

## December 2 | Sunday

Advent Series: Elizabeth and Zechariah

Read [Luke 1:5-25](#)



### 03 | Mon – Does righteousness living = a pain-free life? | Read [Luke 1:5-7](#)

It is interesting that Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth were both considered “righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly” yet they were still childless, considered by many to be a curse or punishment for sin. Does that happen even today? Do you know godly people who have experienced undeserved loss or tragedy and wondered... why them? Does being a part of God’s family exempt us from pain?

### 04 | Tue – When God speaks | Read [Luke 1:8-13](#)

Some historians estimate there were as many as 18,000 priests so it is possible that this was the only time in Zechariah’s life that he was chosen for this special sacred duty. Why do you think God chose that time and place to speak to Zechariah? Even though he’d been asking for a child for many years, do you think Zechariah expected an answer to come like this? Have you repeatedly asked God for something and received it when you least expected it?

### 05 | Wed – God’s timing | Read [Luke 1:14-17](#) / [Jeremiah 29:11-13](#)

Not only was God giving Zechariah a son, he would be a very special child. Read carefully the angel’s description of the child to be born. Zechariah’s son would have a unique place in history and in God’s plan. John would become the one who would prepare the way for Jesus the Messiah. No matter what you ask God for, it will never be greater than his actual plans for you. Do you trust God’s heart, his timing?

### 06 | Thu – Yes, but... | Read [Luke 1:18-20](#)

Even with the incredible experience of speaking with an angel and hearing that his prayers would be answered, Zechariah still doubted. To be fair, both he and his wife were physically too old to have a child. His doubts didn’t keep the promise from being fulfilled but Zechariah temporarily lost something in the process because of his initial unbelief. What helps you overcome your unbelief?

### 07 | Fri – Impossible? | Read [Luke 1:21-25](#)

Elizabeth knew she and her husband were too old to have children. But she did not give up. She knew the stories of barren women like Sarah (Gen. 18:13), Samson’s mother (Judges 13) and Hannah (1 Samuel 1) to whom God had given a child. Did these examples give Elizabeth hope and fuel her faith that nothing is impossible with God? Her words in verse 25 reveal her belief that this baby was a gift from the Lord. Do you believe God still does the impossible?

### 08 | Sat – Where does hope come from? | Read [Psalm 25:5](#) / [Isaiah 49:23b](#) / [Romans 15:13](#)

Zechariah and Elizabeth knew that only God could do what they asked. Have you come to that place in your life? David declared his hope was in the Lord “all day long.” Isaiah repeated that no one who hopes in the Lord will be disappointed and Paul prayed for the Romans that they would be filled with all hope. Knowing that God always keeps his promises is where you can find your hope. Did you know there are over 500 promises in the scriptures? Which ones have you claimed for yourself?