

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 9, 2007

Passage: Luke 1:1-25; 1:57-80

Memory Passage: Luke 1:68

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:1-4.** Was Luke the first to ever write an account about who Jesus was and what Jesus did?
- (b) What made Luke's approach different? Where did he get his information (verse 2; 1 John 1:1-3; Hebrews 2:3; 2 Peter 1:16)? What does this tell you about the accuracy of the gospel (2 Peter 1:15-16)?
- (c) What do we know about Luke's personal background (Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11)? How might this affect his accuracy?
- (d) Does Luke record everything that happened? Why not (Psalm 40:5; John 21:25)? What was his reason for writing this gospel (verses 3-4)? What did John say was his reason (John 20:31)?
- (e) Who is Luke writing to? What position might this person have held (compare Acts 23:26; 24:3; 26:25)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 1:1-4 and 2 Peter 1:15-16. Talk about the accuracy of God's Word. What attempts did Luke make to ensure its accuracy? Was Luke an eyewitness? What was his profession? Where did he get his information from? Why has he recorded this gospel? Praise God for giving us such an accurate account of the things that happened.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:5-10.** How are Elizabeth and Zacharias described in verse 6? Read Luke 1:11-17. How does Zacharias respond to the appearance of the angel? Why? How does the angel respond to him?
- (b) What does the name "John" mean? How does his name indicate something about the one he will announce (John 1:14-17)?
- (c) What does verse 13 tell us about "unanswered prayer?" How long had they been praying (Luke 1:7)? What did Jesus teach his disciples about prayer in Luke 11:5-8 and Luke 18:1-8? How might these principles apply to the situation in Luke 1:13?
- (d) What announcement does the angel bring? What is this child born to do? Where will this child be "great?" Why is this significant? What does Daniel 12:3 tell us about greatness in God's economy?
- (e) What prophecies does the angel refer to (Malachi 3:3; 4:5-6; Isaiah 40:3-5)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 1:5-10 and Malachi 4:5-6. Discuss the role of prophecy in showing who the Messiah would be. What does this passage teach us about God's faithfulness to His Word and His promises? Are there things you have been praying about for a long time? Thank God that His timing is always perfect and ask him to give you a heart of patience in waiting on Him.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:18-25.** Does Zacharias respond in faith? What consequence does he bear?
- (b) How does Elizabeth respond (Luke 1:24-25)? When Mary visits her, what happens to Elizabeth and her baby?
- (c) What in verse 43 indicates that Elizabeth understands who Mary's child is?
- (d) Read Luke 1:59-66. What unusual event occurs at the birth of John?
- (e) What impact does this have on the people of Judea? How does this event serve to prepare some for the coming of the Messiah?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 1:18-25, Luke 1:59-66 and Hebrews 11:6. What pleases God? Who shows this in Luke 1? What is the effect of the birth of John the Baptist? What would you have thought if you were there? Ask God to prepare your heart so that you might learn to trust Him in every situation.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 1:67-75.** Why does Zacharias bless God? What two things has God done in the coming of Messiah?
- (b) What does the "horn" of salvation indicate? Consider what it symbolizes in the following: 1 Kings 22:11; Daniel 8:5-7; Zechariah 1:18-21. What aspect of salvation taught here is usually ignored today?
- (c) What do John 16:11; Colossians 2:13-15; and Hebrews 2:14-15 tell us about what Jesus came to do?
- (d) In verses 70, 72, and 73, what indicates that Messiah's coming is connected to God's faithfulness?
- (e) What is to be the result of the coming of Messiah (Luke 1:74-75)? How is their service to be different? What does Titus 2:11-14 tell us about why Jesus came? What is true about everyone who is in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 1:67-75 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. Discuss holiness and righteousness. How holy are we apart from Christ? How holy are believers in Christ? How does the coming of Jesus enable us to walk in holiness and righteousness "all the days of our lives?" Pray that your life might be a testimony to the coming of Jesus.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) Read Luke 1:76-80. How does Zacharias understand the mission and ministry of his son? What will be his role?
- (b) How did John describe his role (John 1:19-23)? How did he describe his relationship to Jesus (John 1:24-27; 1:29-34)?
- (c) How else does Zacharias describe Jesus (Luke 1:78-79)? What prophecy might he have in mind (Isaiah 9:2)?
- (d) How do the following passages relate to this prophecy—2 Peter 1:16-19; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6?
- (e) How does John summarize the coming of Jesus at the beginning of his gospel (John 1:1-5)? How is this similar to the promise of Zacharias? What has the coming of Christ brought into our world (Luke 1:79; John 1:14)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 1:76-80 and John 1:1-5. Who is the babe in the manger? Can he be a savior if he is not God? Talk about this. What is the main reason Jesus came and what will be the responsibility of John (Luke 1:76-77)? Pray for someone who does not know Jesus as Savior. Pray for opportunities to share about the reason that Jesus has come.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 1:25 and 1:57-80. Why is the accuracy of God's Word so important? How does Luke show his concern for accuracy? What do you learn about faith from Zacharias and Elizabeth? What did you learn about praise from them? Pray that the Lord might truly be worshipped tomorrow as we gather together.

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The Song of Zacharias

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people.”