

The Announcement of John the Baptist

Luke 1:5-25

- God uses the _____ of ordinary people to accomplish _____ things.

- God always _____ our prayers.

- God keeps His _____ and honors those who _____ them.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. Sunday we learned the 400 years between the Old and New Testament are often called the 400 years of silence because during that period God did not give new revelation to the nation of Israel. Can you think of a time in your life when you felt God was especially silent or distant toward you?

2. When we feel that God is silent or absent from our lives it can be easy to lose heart and give up. Is there a particular area of your life where you find it easy to lose heart and want to give up?

3. Luke 1 introduced us to Zechariah and Elizabeth, an older couple well past their childbearing years, yet God answers their prayers for a child. Do you have prayers that God seemingly won't answer? Have you given up on those prayers?

4. Lastly, we saw that Zechariah didn't believe Gabriel when he announced to Zechariah that he and Elizabeth would have a son and as a result Zechariah was stricken mute. From this we learn that there are consequences for our disbelief and disobedience. Last week Chris asked the question, "Does the Bible have authority over us or do we think we have authority over the Bible?" What are the areas of your life where you most struggle to trust the Word of God and obey?