

***@”The Way” Our M V P—MISSION, VISION
&PURPOSE—is to***

***“LOVE GOD—(practically)
LOVE PEOPLE—(realistically)
MAKE DISCIPLES (committedly).”***

G R O W T H N O T E S

**Our Current Message Series Is—“CHRISTMAS
MIRACLES” - Part 1**

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:5-80

TODAY’S MESSAGE:

“If You Believe—You Won’t Miss The Miracle”

Luke 1:5-7

KJV: ⁵ There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

⁷ And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

***NLT:* The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold**

⁵ When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. ⁶ Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. ⁷ They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.

Message: A Childless Couple Conceives

⁵⁻⁷ During the rule of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest assigned service in the regiment of Abijah. His name was Zachariah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth. Together they lived honorably before God, careful in keeping to the ways of the commandments and enjoying a clear conscience before God. But they were childless because Elizabeth could never conceive, and now they were quite old.

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| <h3><i>Series Background & Message Summary</i></h3> |
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The story of Christmas found in the Gospel is unexpected. For the people of God, God had been silent for 400 years. Many of them felt forgotten and yet, in the quiet, dark corner of a city, God remembered and came to them. But not how they expected. God came in the form of a baby, not a king, a president, a dictator, bully, or powerful leader. Instead—Emmanuel—a name that means—“God Is with us”—a brown-skinned immigrant in

Palestine came unexpectedly by many as the promised miracle who would deliver...

This miracle came to all including the minority, the immigrant, those deemed illegal, struggling, the poor, marginalized, the young, the old, and everyone in-between—literally those with nothing and no reason to believe, hope, hang on, or look forward to!

The Gospels capture each person's response when they encountered the presence of God who came through a brown-skinned, immigrant, in Palestine during a time where the innocent—including babies—were being summarily murdered and killed with no consequence.

The Gospels capture their emotions—and our emotions at Christmas. This Christmas we discover and rediscover not only the many emotions we feel at Christmas, but also that God—(Emmanuel—meaning “God is with us”)—is with us in all those experiences. We're reminded that God shows up in unexpected places and in miraculous ways.

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PREPARATION FOR RECEIVING A MIRACLE

- 1. “ELEVATE Your EXPECTATION!”***
- 2. “EXPECT God To Work In The UNEXPECTED!”***
- 3. “RECOGNIZE That God OPERATES In The UNCHARTED!”***
- 4. “RECOGNIZE That God Can UPEND Our AGENDA!”***

C O N C L U S I O N :

God can use a fall to set you up for promotion and elevation—therefore—whatever you face make it your goal to:

***RECOGNIZE GOD IN IT—
TRUST GOD WALKING THROUGH IT—
AND
PRAISE GOD COMING OUT OF IT!***