

## THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: ADVENT PROPHECIES ZECHARIAH'S SONG

# TALK IT OVER

### Key Scripture

*<sup>57</sup> Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup> And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup> And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, <sup>60</sup> but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." <sup>61</sup> And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." <sup>62</sup> And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup> And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. <sup>64</sup> And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. <sup>65</sup> And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, <sup>66</sup> and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. <sup>67</sup> And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, <sup>68</sup> "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people <sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup> as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; <sup>72</sup> to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup> that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high <sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." <sup>80</sup> And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel." Luke 1:67-80 (ESV)*

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More of God's truth all week long at [renewaldenver.tv](http://renewaldenver.tv) and [sjdenver.tv](http://sjdenver.tv)

### Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share a high and a low.
- What are your Christmas plans?
- Do you ever just make up songs on the spot?

### Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Luke 1:57-80. What's something that sticks out to you?

### Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Use a question from N.T. Wright's "Luke: For Everyone" (pg. 20-21).
- Circumcision (in Luke 1:59) was the sign of the Old Testament Covenant God had with people. What's the sign of the New Testament Covenant?
- What might you learn if you couldn't speak for several months?
- Why does Zechariah mention David in his song? Check your People's Bible Commentary on Luke if you need help!
- We are usually not great students of the Old Testament, and think of it stereotypically as filled only with law. However, what is Zechariah's view of God's disposition based on the Old Testament?

### Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- What's a promise of God in Luke 1:67-80 that you can remember this week?
- What's one way you can share the joy of Christmas with others?

### Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- "God, we cannot overstate, over-praise, or over-adore you for what you have done in sending your son to be our redemption. Thank you for your mercy and salvation. Make me a person of peace in my neighborhood and workplace, that others may know to ask me about the reason for my joy. Amen."

### Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three for 15 minutes:

1. How did you see God at work in your life this week?
2. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
3. What kind of conversations are you having with non-Christians?
4. Pray for one another.