

VGROUP STUDY GUIDE
"PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE"
LUKE 1: 15-17
DECEMBER 10, 2023

FOCAL POINT: Name a person who has made a difference in your life. What did they do that was of help to you? How did they impact your life? Our text will demonstrate several traits of people who make a difference.

TEXT:

5 *In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest of Abijah's division named Zechariah. His wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.*
6 *Both were righteous in God's sight, living without blame according to all the commands and requirements of the Lord.* **7** *But they had no children because Elizabeth could not conceive, and both of them were well along in years.* **8** *When his division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God,* **9** *it happened that he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense.* **10** *At the hour of incense the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.* **11** *An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense.* **12** *When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and overcome with fear.* **13** *But the angel said to him: Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.* **14** *There will be joy and delight for you, and many will rejoice at his birth.* **15** *For he will be great in the sight of the Lord and will never drink wine or beer. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb.* **16** *He will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God.* **17** *And he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people. Nothing is impossible with God.*

Here are some traits of people who make a difference:

They were a faithful people (vv. 5-6)

1. What was Zechariah's job? Who was his wife Elizabeth related to? What did this mean? What was most important wasn't to whom they were related but how they lived. How did they live?

2.Can you think of any reason it would be difficult to live an upstanding life as a follower of God during this time? When was the last time the people of God had heard or seen a sign from God? (Hint: the interval between the book of Malachi and the book of Matthew).

3.In spite of not hearing from God in centuries, Zechariah and Elizabeth remained faithful to God. Why?

They were a hurting people (v. 7)

1.Faithful people don't always escape pain. *Read* John 16: 33. What was Zechariah and Elizabeth's pain? Why was this painful to them? What were the ramifications of not having children?

2.Why weren't they able to have children? Was this a punishment of God? Are there times when God allows pain? (*Read* John 9: 1-3). What was the pain of Israel at this time?

3.Look up what the name "Zechariah" means.

They were a chosen people (vv. 8-17)

1.Was it a coincidence Zechariah showed up at the Temple? Why did he show up there in the first place? V. 9 was something a priest would generally do only ONCE in their lifetime. What did the burning of incense represent? What were the people praying for?

2.What was Zechariah praying for? *Read* v. 13. What was going to be special about this child? None of this was coincidental. They were chosen by God for this mission. It was even prophesied about. *Read* Isaiah 40: 1-8.

**How are YOU making a difference in preparing people for when they stand before Jesus? There is nothing coincidental about where you are and who you know. God has you where you are to be a person who makes a difference.