

5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old."

~ LUKE 1:5-7 (N/V)

Ze	chariah and Elizabeth knew the pain of
Ze	chariah and Elizabeth knew the confusion of
66	² I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." ~ GENESIS 12:2-3 (NIV)
66	¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." 2 SAMUEL 7:16 (NIV)

66 ² 'But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. ³ Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,' says the Lord Almighty." ~ MALACHI 4:2-3 (N/V)

Political ...

National ...

Moral ...

5 See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents;"

~ MALACHI 4:5-6a (N/V)

Act 2: Zechariah "chosen by lot" to burn incense in the Temple of the Lord.

66 ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous-to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

~ LUKE 1:17 (N/V)

Zechariah's Response:

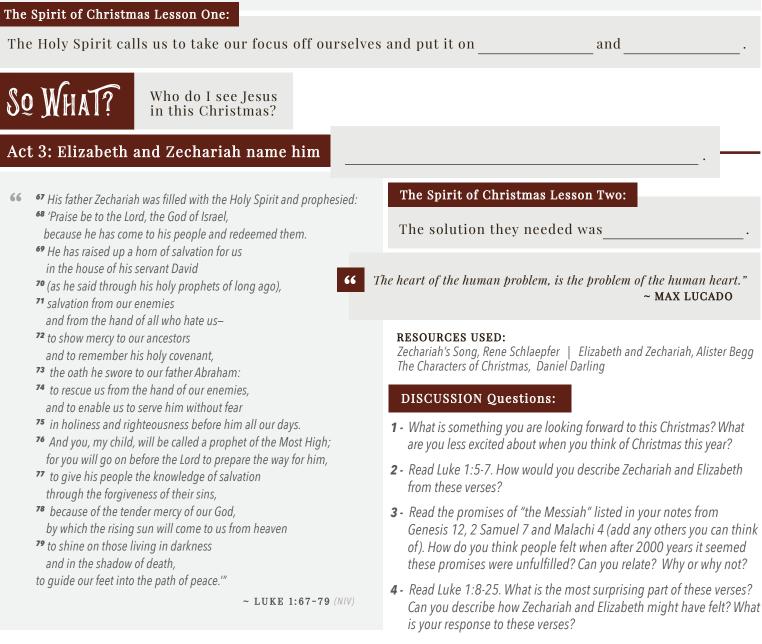
which leads to

Gabriel's Promise:

66 37 For no word from God will ever fail." ~ LUKE 1:37 (N/V)

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!""

~ LUKE 1:41-45 (N/V)



- 5 Read Luke 1:39-45. Why do you think Luke includes this story as a part of the Christmas narrative? What is your emotional response to this part of the story?
- 6 What can we learn from Elizabeth's response to her relative Mary?
- 7 Read Luke 1:67-80. What is your favorite line in Zechariah's song? What line do you need to hold close to you this Christmas?

