

GROWING DEEPER

Names had great significance in the ancient world. Do you know why your parents gave you your name or the meaning behind it? This Advent season, we are exploring the biblical themes of hope, joy, love and peace. How is hope central to Christian living? What role does hope play in the lives of non-Christians?

Luke 1:1-7 sets the stage for the story of John the Baptist's birth. What do we learn about Zechariah and Elizabeth in these first verses? What struggles, frustrations and fears might this couple have experienced because of their situation? Why is hope such an important part of the Advent season? What role does hope play in the life of a believer? What role does hope play in the life of an unbeliever?

In Luke 1:8-17, Zechariah encounters an angel of God in the temple. What does the angel's presence signify? Zechariah certainly wasn't expecting an angel to announce the answer to his prayers. How has God surprised you in the way He has answered your prayers? What kind of expectations should we have when making requests of God?

The angel promises joy and gladness because God will grant Zechariah and Elizabeth's request. What joy and gladness have you experienced from God answering your prayers? Why was John's ministry necessary before Jesus arrived?

In Luke 1:18-22, Zechariah struggles to understand how God could possibly fulfill His promise of giving them a baby boy. Why did Zechariah doubt, even in the presence of an angel? How are we like Zechariah, doubting even when God's power is on display in our lives? As New Covenant believers, what promises do we have in Jesus that seem almost impossible for God to fulfill? How was Zechariah humbled and corrected in his speechlessness?

In Luke 1:23-66, Zechariah regains his ability to speak and the text says that fear fell upon all their neighbors. When have you experienced the fear of God because it was so obvious that He had powerfully intervened? What are some of the hopes we have for God's intervention and blessing in our lives? How can you pray for one another this week?



SUMMIT VIEW CHURCH

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HOPE: THE SILENCE IS BROKEN

Message by Michael Hearn

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*... and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah,
to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,
and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."*

Luke 1:17 ^(ESV)

