CHRISTMAS AT THE HILLS: ZECHARIAH'S CHRISTMAS STORY
DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY:

Long before Christmas trees, decorations, and holiday meals, from the very beginning, the singing of Christmas songs was an important part of celebrating Jesus' coming to earth. At the very first Christmas, the key participants (Mary, the angels, Zechariah, Simeon) all sang significant songs that commemorated Christ's birth. This week's sermon will examine the life of the father of John the Baptist—a man named Zechariah, and the song he sang at Christmas.

Key Passages: Luke 1:67-79

Be sure to read this Scripture passage together before you proceed to the "Grow" section of our study.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

KNOW: Spend some time finding out how everyone's week has gone.
The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or "connection" activity or with questions appropriate to your context.
What is something that you are thankful for this week?
What is something that is causing you stress or concern this week?
Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?

GROW: Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.
For the next few weeks, we'll examine some Christmas songs found in the pages of Scripture. What is your favorite Christmas song or carol? Why?

Zechariah praised God for keeping His promises. Talk about a promise of God that is special to you.

How do these verses show God's unfolding plan from Old Testament days to the coming of the Messiah?

GO: Talk through ways you can put what you've learned into practice.
Zechariah praised God for His interest and involvement in our world. Name a way you've specifically seen God at work in your life.

When have you been overwhelmed by God's faithfulness and power? Did it lead you to praise?

Are there obstacles in your own life that prevent you from praising God? Confess them and fully surrender them over to God.