



Life Group Guide

A GUIDE FOR LIFE GROUPS, FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY



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VIDEOS

“FEAR NOT! -THE ANGELS OF ADVENT | SUNDAY, DEC. 5 TONGUE TIED BY AN ANGEL

ADVENT 2 (PEACE)

OPENING PRAYER

We praise you oh Lord God because you have come to us, your people, and have redeemed us. You have given us the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of our sins. We praise you for your tender mercy that shines on all who are living in darkness and the shadow of death. Lord, please guide our feet into the path of peace. (based on Luke 1:77-79). In your life-giving and peaceful name, we pray Jesus, Amen.

CONNECTING QUESTION

What good news or event has left you speechless? Why?

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Aloud & Meditate on God’s Word: Malachi 3:1-7b; Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

WATCH VIDEO

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. What stands out to you about Zechariah and Elizabeth? What feelings might they have had because of their barrenness? Others may have thought they had done something wrong because they were childless. Has anyone made assumptions about you or your situation that were not true?
2. Since many priests never got a chance to go into the temple and burn incense, what might Zechariah have been feeling as he prepares for this significant task? What were the people outside doing? What kind of prayer list might Zechariah have brought with him into the Holy Place?
3. Describe the interaction between Zechariah and the angel. What good news did the angel bring? This was miraculous news because Zechariah and Elizabeth were beyond child-bearing years and God had been silent for 400 years, after last speaking through the prophet Malachi. When have you given up on a long-standing prayer? Has God answered it yet?
4. Compare what the angel said about John with Malachi 3:1 and 4:5-6. What would John’s life look like?
5. Billy Graham says: “The angel came not just to announce the birth of John, but to make it clear that John was to live his life as the forerunner of the Messiah, and as one who would bring the knowledge of salvation and the remission of sins to his fellow Israelites.” Discuss how answered prayers, or things that may happen to us, aren’t necessarily just for our benefit.
6. What did the angel say about himself? The name Gabriel means “God’s hero” or “the mighty one” or “God is

great." He is the messenger of the Lord. Where else do we see Gabriel and what is he doing? (Daniel 8:15-17, 9:20-23; Luke 1:26-33)

7. What price did Zechariah pay for not believing the angel's message? In what times and ways may we need to be silent? What can we learn from those times? (see Exodus 14:13-14; Psalm 46:10; Isaiah 53:7; Habakkuk 2:20)
8. What was the first thing Zechariah did when he could speak? (Luke 1:63-64). Look at Luke 1:67-79 to read Zechariah's song of praise.

FOLLOWING JESUS

David Jeremiah says: "Gabriel has good news to give because he stays in the right place to learn it. As he told Zechariah 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God.' Talk about some ways that you can stay in the presence of God during this Advent and upcoming Christmas season. How will being in the presence of God affect your perspective, your relationships?"

CLOSING PRAYER

Praise God that even when things don't make sense to us, or we are waiting long in prayer, he speaks to us through his Word, his people, his angels, and says to us "Do not be afraid." Ask God for faith to believe he hears your prayers and works on your behalf.

Our Father...