

Disciples of Christmas: Zechariah

Central idea: Honest doubt can lead to the pure joy of honest faith.

Luke 1:5-20

Look up.

Read the passage thoughtfully.

What did you like about the passage?

What did you find difficult about the passage?

What does this passage teach about people?

What does this passage teach about God?

Alternative questions to help you think through this passage:

- Which of the following sources for doubting God seems to be the greatest issue for you:
 - The evil one whispering uncertainty into your mind.
 - A hard moral choice.
 - A painful experience (e.g., an illness, a relationship crisis, a financial need).
- Briefly describe Zechariah and Elizabeth (verses 5-7). What feelings might this couple have had in light of their childlessness?
- Imagine your own encounter with an angel. What are some of your thoughts and feelings?
- Why do you think Zechariah didn't believe the angel (verses 18, 20)?
- We are to listen to God when he takes us into new or uncharted territory. What challenge has God recently put in front of you?
 - Honest doubt can lead to honest faith (see Zechariah's song in verses 67-79). What do you see as the greatest need when you are struggling with an issue?
 - Faith can lead to pure, unadulterated joy (see verses 14, 44, 58, 64). What has your own experience been?

Look forward.

- In what area of your life do you need to accept God at his word? Ask God to give you the courage to act on that.