# The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold - Luke 1:5-25

*Topics:* Age, Angels, Answers, Children, Consistency, Family, Greatness, Impossible, Miracles, Parents, Patience, Prayer, Promises, Purpose, Surprises, Value

## **Open It**

- 1. What significant events happened the year you were born?
- \* 2. What experiences of complete surprise have you recently had?
  - 3. At this point in your life, what do you consider your most important responsibilities?

### **Explore It**

- 4. Who were Zechariah and Elizabeth? (1:5-7)
- 5. What characteristics did Zechariah and Elizabeth have in common? (1:5-7)
- 6. How well did Zechariah and Elizabeth handle the frustration of childlessness? (1:6, 13, 25)
- 7. How were Zechariah and Elizabeth "upright in the sight of God"? (1:6)
- 8. For what duty was Zechariah chosen by lot? (1:8-10)
- \* 9. What experience gripped Zechariah with fear? (1:11-12)
  - 10. What facts can we note about angels from the information in this passage? (1:11-12, 19)
  - 11. What promises did Gabriel make concerning the child who would be born to this elderly couple? (1:13-17)
  - 12. What instructions did Gabriel give Zechariah about his and Elizabeth's role as parents? (1:14-16)
  - 13. How did Gabriel describe the main purpose of John's life? (1:16-17)
  - 14. What conclusions can we draw about Zechariah from his answer to the angel's announcement? (1:18)
- \* 15. Why was Zechariah rendered unable to speak until the day of the prophecy's fulfillment? (1:19-20)
- \* 16. How did Elizabeth react to Zechariah's news? (1:25)
  - 17. How many miracles are referred to in this passage? (1:9, 11, 20, 24)

#### Get It

- 18. What can we learn from Zechariah and Elizabeth that would help us handle long-term disappointments?
- \* 19. How did God demonstrate in the lives of these two people that He is sovereign?
  - 20. Why were Zechariah and Elizabeth entrusted with the knowledge of God's purpose for the life of their son?
- \* 21. When have you doubted the reality of God's wonderful provision for you?
  - 22. What do you think Zechariah or Elizabeth felt during those extraordinary days?
  - 23. What could God do in a person's life today that would have as big an impact as the angel's visit to Zechariah?
  - 24. In what way is the birth of a child a sign of God's blessing?
  - 25. In what ways does God want to use us today?
  - 26. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being low, 10 being high), how would you rate your level of expectation that God could do something amazing through your life?

## **Apply It**

- \* 27. What long-term frustration can you identify in your life that needs to be entrusted to God?
  - 28. How can you strengthen your realization that God is in control of the events of your life?