

Talk It Over

Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.

Warm Up:

- Think about "waiting" -- waiting rooms, a package to be delivered, news to be shared. What makes the "waiting" so hard?
- How would you describe Biblical/God's Hope versus the hope or "good luck" people talk of or offer others?

Read:

Luke 1:5-25

Discuss

1. How long do you think, just a guess - ballpark, do you think Elizabeth and Zechariah "hoped" for a child?
2. If they ever gave up hope -- expectation of answered prayer -- when do you think it happened? Why?
3. Referring to verses 5-7, what is Luke trying to bring across to the reader?
4. Referring to verses 8-10, do you think there's anything that Luke is trying to say about "timing" related to prayer and hope?
5. In verse 18, Zechariah expresses doubt. [While worded similarly to Mary's question in verse 34, the original language indicates two different tones associated with the question.] What reasons did Zechariah give and how does that relate to the reasons we give today to our own doubting?
6. What do you make of the angel's declaration, "which will come true at their appointed time?"

Wrap Up:

- Perhaps someone would share a hope, dream, desire, or vision for life they had and why, through the waiting, they stopped believing it could happen.
- Perhaps share some dreams or hopes you'd like to see come to fruition in your life.
- Pray together for these hopes and dreams, and for the strength to "hope" in the "waiting."

