

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Part 1: Choosing Hope

INTRODUCTION

How do we choose to hope even when our circumstances paint a bleak picture? When God doesn't act the way we want Him to in the timing we want Him to, how can we continue to pursue faithfulness? In part 1, we take a detailed look at the lives of Zechariah and Elizabeth, a couple who held hope for decades during a time when God was silent.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Do you ever struggle with the temptation of thinking/saying, "What's the point?"
2. Zechariah and Elizabeth held onto hope that God would keep His promises despite an incredible set up circumstances that could be used to sway them into despair. Describe a time (past or present) where your circumstances painted a hopeless picture. What happened? Were you able to hold onto hope? If so, how?
3. Do you live as if you know that God hears your prayers? Has He shown you that He does in any particular way?
4. What are you waiting for right now? How does the Christmas story remind you that your hope is not misplaced?

THIS WEEK

This week when you feel your hope being pulled or a tension to give up, remind yourself of the historical reality of Christmas – that at just the appointed time God kept His promise. His timeline looks different from ours, but in the meantime, we can hold onto the fact God hears our prayers, is working, and we **can** hope. Why? Christmas!

"Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth..."

Luke 1:11-14