



Sunday, December 1, 2019 | Wawasee Community Bible Church
Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 1: **Zechariah & Elizabeth**

Luke 1:5-25; 57-80

Some Basics About Angels

Angels are **CREATED**, spiritual, moral, personal beings.

Nehemiah 9:6; Colossians 1:16; 2 Peter 2:4

There is **RANK** among the angels.

Revelation 12:7-8; Jude 9

Angels have great **POWER**, but they are **NOT GOD**.

Matthew 28:2; Revelation 22:9

About Zechariah & Elizabeth (v. 5-7)

1. They were **RIGHTEOUS**.

2. They were old and had no **CHILDREN**.

Zechariah is Chosen (v. 8-10)

God is Sovereign

He is in control of all things, all the time, and everything happens according to his purpose and in his timing. No detail is unknown to him nor does any event catch him by surprise. Ever.

Gabriel Appears to Zechariah (v. 11-17)

God always answers prayer — on his schedule, in his way

Zechariah Doubts (v. 18-20)

God will listen to your doubts, but calls you to trust him

Zechariah Finishes Up & Goes Home (v. 21-25)

**In Jesus, God will forgive your sin,
and take away your reproach.**



life **HOMESWORK** groups

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them Life Groups. The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a parallel passage of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.

Getting Started

1. **Getting to Know You:** *What have been some of the biggest days in your life? Rattle off a few BIG days for you... Weddings, birthdays, etc. What are the big events in your life?*
2. Review your message notes. What stood out to you from the message this week? What'd you learn? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

Digging Deeper

3. **Read Luke 1:5-7.** What do you learn about Zechariah & Elizabeth?
4. **Read Luke 1:8-9.** Twice a year (and then again at major festivals like Passover, Pentecost, & the Feast of Tabernacles), Zechariah would travel to Jerusalem to serve at the Temple. Of all the priestly duties, the most prestigious was to enter the temple and burn incense. Once a priest was chosen to do this, he was never chosen again. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity! How do you think Zechariah (who tells Gabriel in v. 18 that he is an "old man") felt when he was chosen?
5. The priests assigned duties by casting lots (like rolling dice). For decades Zechariah had been traveling to Jerusalem, and the lot never fell to him... until it did on this day. Read Proverbs 16:33. What does this tell you about God's part in this? Was Zechariah just lucky?
6. We're considering and studying the nature of angels this Christmas and their role in the Christmas story. What did you learn about angels this week? What questions do you still have?
7. Gabriel is one of only two that are named in all of Scripture. What do we learn about him here?
8. Gabriel also appears to Daniel and to Mary. What do we learn about his role in those accounts?

Daniel 8:15-18

Daniel 9:20-23

Luke 1:26-38

9. **Read Luke 1:18-20.** What is Zechariah's response to Gabriel? What is Gabriel's response to Zechariah?
10. Zechariah isn't the only person to ever doubt God. Look up a few of the following passages. For each one, why do you think they doubt? (You may want to read surrounding verses for more context.)

Genesis 17:15-17

Genesis 18:9-15

Exodus 3:10-15

Exodus 16:1-3

Judges 6:14-23

John 20:24-25

Matthew 28:16-17

11. What doubts do you struggle with? Share them with your group, then as a group answer this question: How/Where does God's Word address that doubt?
12. Spend time praying for and with your group.

*During your prayer time this week, let's all be praying together about the following items.
Use the space at the bottom to record your personal prayer items, or requests from your Life Group.*

Neighboring Church

Pray this week for the ministry and people of Nappanee Missionary Church.

Personal Prayer Items

Word Find for Luke 1:11-17 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

11 And **there appeared** to him an **angel** of the **Lord standing** on the **right side** of the **altar** of **incense**. 12 And Zechariah was **troubled when** he saw him, and **fear fell** upon him. 13 But the **angel said** to him, "Do not be **afraid**, Zechariah, for your **prayer has been heard**, and your **wife Elizabeth** will **bear** you a son, and you shall **call** his **name John**. 14 And you will have joy and **gladness**, and **many** will **rejoice** at his **birth**, 15 for he will be **great** before the **Lord**. And he must not **drink** wine or strong **drink**, and he will be filled with the Holy **Spirit**, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will **turn many** of the **children** of Israel to the **Lord** their God, 17 and he will go before him in the **spirit** and power of Elijah, to **turn** the hearts of the fathers to the **children**, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the **Lord** a people prepared."

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