

Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, December 7th, 2025

“The King is Coming”

“Preparing the Way”

Sermon Text: **Luke 1:5-25**; Old Testament Text: **Isaiah 40:1-5**; New Testament Text: **Colossians 1:15-20**.

Read **Luke 1:5-25** as you listen to the sermon, then answer the questions below.

1. Read **Luke 1:5-7**. From whom were Zechariah and Elizabeth descended?

What kind of standing did Zechariah and Elizabeth have with the Lord?

Why had they never had children?

2. Read **Luke 1:8-10**. What duty was Zechariah performing on this day?

What were the people outside doing while Zechariah carried out his duty?

How was what the people were doing outside connected to what Zechariah was doing?

3. Read **Luke 1:11-13**. Who appeared to Zechariah?

How did Zechariah react to his appearance?

How do you think you would have reacted?

Summarize what the angel said in v. 13.

What name were they to call their son?

What did this name mean?

4. Read **Luke 1:14-17**. List four things this passage tells us John will do.

In whose spirit and power will John move?

What is John's primary duty?

5. Read **Luke 1:18-20**. How did Zechariah react to the angel's proclamation?

What is the angel's name?

Why was he upset with Zechariah's reaction?

What did Zechariah's doubts cause the angel to do?

6. Read **Luke 1:21-23**. What were the people wondering about Zechariah?

What did the people believe had happened to Zechariah?

What did Zechariah do when his time of service was up?

7. Read **Luke 1:24-25**. Why do you think Elizabeth stayed at home for five months?

Explain what Elizabeth is saying in **verse 25**.

8. What will you remember most from this message?

Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Isaiah 40:1-5** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Read **Isaiah 40:1**. How would you have felt to hear these words, if you had been subjected for so long to the wrath of God like the people of Judah and Israel had?
 2. Read **Isaiah 40:2**. What three things was Isaiah instructed to proclaim to God's people?
 3. Which of the 3 proclamations would have brought you the most joy and why?
 4. Read **Deuteronomy 28:15-68**. Why should the people not have been surprised that they received double punishment for their sins?
 5. Read **Isaiah 40:3**. Toward whom is this prophetic declaration pointing?
 6. How will he go about preparing the way of the Lord?
 7. Read **Isaiah 40:4**. This verse describes a Middle Eastern practice of preparing the way for the visit of a monarch. What will God do to prepare the way for the Messiah?
 8. Read **Isaiah 40:5**. To what is this verse pointing?
 9. How do we know it will happen?
- II. Next read **Colossians 1:15-20**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Read **Colossians 1:15**. This verse declares that Jesus *is the image of the invisible God*. What does that mean to you?
 2. Read **Genesis 1:27**. Considering **Colossians 1:15**, in whose image are we made?
 3. If Jesus is *the firstborn of all creation* (And He is!), what kinds of rights and privileges would accompany that?
 4. Read **Colossians 1:16**. According to this verse, what has Jesus created—be specific?
 5. The Colossians were guilty of several heretical beliefs, one of which was angel worship. Read **Colossians 2:16-19** to get an idea of some of their unbiblical thinking. How could **Colossians 1:16** help defuse the belief in angel worship?
 6. Read **Colossians 1:17**. How would you restate this verse in your own words?
 7. Read **Colossians 1:18**. What four statements are made about Jesus in this verse? (Please express this in your own words—don't just read us the Bible verse.)
 8. Read **Colossians 1:19**. How does it make you feel when you consider *all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell* in Jesus?

9. Is that the way you've viewed Him, or did you always consider God the Father to be superior?
 10. Read **Colossians 1:20**. Now read **Ephesians 1:10**. Does **Eph. 1:10** help you make better sense of the statement: *and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven?*
- III. Read **Luke 1:5-25**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Read **Luke 1:5-7**. From whom were Zechariah and Elizabeth descended?
 2. What kind of standing did Zechariah and Elizabeth have with the Lord?
 3. Why had they never had children?
 4. Read **Luke 1:8-10**. What duty was Zechariah performing on this day?
 5. What were the people outside doing while Zechariah carried out his duty?
 6. How was what the people were doing outside connected to what Zechariah was doing?
 7. Read **Luke 1:11-13**. Who appeared to Zechariah?
 8. How did Zechariah react to his appearance?
 9. How do you think you would have reacted?
 10. Summarize what the angel said in v. 13.
 11. What name were they to call their son?
 12. What did this name mean?
 13. Read **Luke 1:14-17**. List four things this passage tells us John will do.
 14. In whose spirit and power will John move?
 15. What is John's primary duty?
 16. Read **Luke 1:18-20**. How did Zechariah react to the angel's proclamation?
 17. What is the angel's name?
 18. Why was he upset with Zechariah's reaction?
 19. What did Zechariah's doubts cause the angel to do?
 20. Read **Luke 1:21-23**. What were the people wondering about Zechariah?
 21. What did the people believe had happened to Zechariah?
 22. What did Zechariah do when his time of service was up?
 23. Read **Luke 1:24-25**. Why do you think Elizabeth stayed at home for five months?
 24. Explain what Elizabeth is saying in **verse 25**.