

# The Gospel According to Luke

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## A PROMISED CHILD

## PART 1

*John the Baptist*

**READ LUKE 1:5-25**

### INTRODUCTION

*This story of the announcement of John the Baptist is fascinating because we see in it that God has a plan in store and that plan will come to fruition regardless of our opinions or desires on the matter. Zacharias was not particularly a fan of his wife giving birth at such an old age. He wanted a child and she did too but, they were resigned to the thought that it wasn't in the cards for them. This can be a discouraging place for us to fall into. We have dreams and desires and think that they are good, and oftentimes they are, but they may not be in God's plan for our lives...at least not yet.*

*People want to feel like God hears them. They want to know that He is on their side. The problem lies in treating God like He is our genie in a bottle that must perform every miracle or desire that we demand of Him when we demand it. God's answer to our requests can often be "no" but that doesn't mean it is an inherently bad desire. It means that God said no and that means no. Sometimes, His answer is not yet and we are just trying to get what God has planned for us before the appropriate time. (see Abraham and Sarah) There are other times that God's answer is yes and those are particular times of rejoicing even though they shouldn't be any different than when He says no or maybe.*

*When cancer comes and God's answer is "no" when we ask Him to heal, He is still worthy of our praise and adoration. When we need money and beg God to give us money and He doesn't, He is no less God in that moment and He is still to be glorified. Our circumstances do not change God's nature. His blessing on our lives is far greater than we give Him credit for and we need to understand that even if we were bound for an eternity in Hell, God would still be worthy of our worship.*

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

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### *DISCUSSION QUESTIONS*

1. When has there been a time that you wanted something that God said “no”? What about “Wait”? How about “Yes”?
2. How do you think Elizabeth and Zacharias felt when the angel announced that they would be having a baby at such an old age? How would you feel if an angel came and told you that now? Would you worship or would you doubt?
3. When the answer from God is “no”, do you feel like it is easy to doubt that He hears you at all? Why or why not?
4. Why should we not treat God like a genie? Isn't it His job to bless us? How have we gotten into a place where we think that so easily?
5. What is something that you have gone through that has tested your faith? Why was it difficult and how did you find the strength to come out on the other side with Jesus?

### *WRAP UP*

Elizabeth and Zacharias were most definitely surprised by the answered prayer of a child. So much so that there were questions. Even in the blessing, they had questions. One thing that we must remember is that God is sovereign over all and that He is the One who is in control and we must glorify Him in and out of season. This means that we decrease and He increases.