

LUKE SERMON SERIES - DEVOTIONAL

NORTHVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

DAY 1

THE CHARACTERS: Elizabeth

Read Luke 1:57-66 and take note of how Luke describes Elizabeth.

- What event begins this section of text?
- How does the text describe the Lord's actions in giving her a son?
- How does Elizabeth respond, emotionally, to John's arrival?
- What is the point of conflict which arises between Elizabeth and her neighbours?
- How do you think she knows that the baby should be named John? (note: the answer is not in the text - it's just something for you to think about!)

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication

DAY 2

THE CHARACTERS: The Neighbours and Relatives

Read Luke 1:57-66 and take note of how Luke describes Elizabeth's neighbours and relatives.

- What kind of response do the neighbours and relatives have to this baby's birth?
- What actions are initiated by the neighbours and relatives?
 - Would your neighbours and relatives assume they could be involved in these same activities in your life?
 - What does the level of involvement by neighbours and relatives in naming and circumcising a child tell you about the differences between their culture and ours?
- What seems to be the criteria by which people are named, according to this text?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication

DAY 3

THE CHARACTERS: Zechariah

Read Luke 1:57-66 and take note of how Luke describes Zechariah.

- In 1:62, Luke says that the friends and neighbours “made signs” to him to find out what he would name the child. Why do you think they “made signs” to him, rather than simply asking him the child’s name?
- Review Luke 1:19-20. When did the angel say that Zechariah would be able to speak again?
- How many days after John’s birth is today’s text taking place?
 - Do you think Zechariah was wondering why he was not yet able to talk?
- What event ‘set his tongue free’?
- What were the first words out of his mouth?

Pray in Adoration / Confession / Supplication

DAY 4

For the Lord’s hand was with him

In Luke 1:66, Luke concludes the section with the words, “For the Lord’s hand was with him.” By using this memorable phrase, Luke is likely inviting his readers to reflect on other times this phrase has been used in the biblical story.

Look up the following texts: Who is being referenced, and what is the result of God being with this individual?

- Genesis 39:1-6
- 2 Samuel 5:6-12
- 2 Chronicles 1:1
- 2 Chronicles 15:1-16

Joseph, David, Solomon, Asa and John the Baptist were all used by God to preserve his people and to turn his people back to himself.

As you pray today, thank God for the way he has consistently raised up leaders for his people.

Which leader(s) are you thankful for today?



DAY 5

For the Lord's hand was with them

Luke uses the phrase "For the Lord's hand was with them" again when he writes a second letter to Theophilus (the book of Acts).

Read Acts 11:19-26.

- Who is the Lord's hand with in this text, and what is the result of God being with these individuals?
- All the people we read about yesterday (Joseph, David, Solomon, Asa & John the Baptist) were big characters in the biblical narrative. In Acts 19, however, we read about the Lord's hand being with a group of men who came from Cyprus and Cyrene. They are unnamed (Luke seems to not know who they are!) and yet they are responsible for sharing the gospel to such effect that they planted the church in Antioch, which became an important center for Christianity for hundreds of years.

As you pray today, thank God for the way he has consistently raised up regular people to spread the good news of Jesus Christ!

How can you be part of this gospel ministry today?