

## Zechariah's Song

### WARM-UP

- Tell us about the craziest rumor you have heard. Did it turn out to be real? How did you find out?
- Recall a time when something you owned broke. What happened, and how did you respond?
- Complete this sentence: "Freedom is like \_\_\_\_\_."

### WORD

*<sup>67</sup>And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, <sup>68</sup>"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people . . ."*

**LUKE 1:67,68**

(Read also **LUKE 1:5-25,57-80.**)

The priest Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were looking forward to the promised Savior of Israel. While they were *righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord*, they could not have children. One day, when Zechariah was on duty in the temple, an angel appeared to him and said, "*your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son.*" Zechariah's response was skepticism. Because of this, he was mute until the birth of his son—a promise fulfilled in spite of his unbelief. When that happened, Zechariah's first words were a song of celebration of God's faithful fulfillment of His promises. In this lesson, we will look at God's work of salvation to take us from doubt to faith, from oppression to freedom, and from fear to peace.

## 1 From Doubt to Faith

*<sup>62</sup>And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup>And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. LUKE 1:62,63*

When Elizabeth became pregnant and gave birth to a son, God's promise to Zechariah was fulfilled. There was no longer anything to doubt, not when the promised answer to prayer was right in front of him. Zechariah's response could be nothing but faith, and in obedience to the angel's words he named his son John. When we hear God's promises, our response should be faith and obedience. Share a time God used a fulfilled promise to grow your faith.

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## 2 From Oppression to Freedom

*<sup>69</sup>... and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup>as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old . . ." LUKE 1:69,70*

(Read also **LUKE 1:71-75**.)

At that time in history, Israel was under Rome, the third empire to rule God's people. Israel had experienced oppression at the hands of these empires. However, because of his renewed eyes of faith, Zechariah knew that there is hope and freedom in store for God's people because of the coming Savior. But, there is a greater oppression that God wants to free us from—oppression from sin. Jesus ultimately came to free us from the bondage of sin. What does Galatians 5:1 say about our standing in Christ?

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### 3 From Fear to Peace

*“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways . . .”* **LUKE 1:76**

(Read also **LUKE 1:77-79**.)

In Malachi 3:1, God promised the nation of Israel a messenger who would prepare the way before God. Believing the words of the angel, Zechariah knew that his son, John, would *go before the Lord to prepare his ways*. He was no longer a skeptical doubting priest. Instead, he himself had been brought from fear of an unfulfilled promise into the peace and security of faith. He looked forward to the Savior who would make a way for them to *serve Him without fear*, and to bring them *into the way of peace*. What does Isaiah 9:7 say about the peace Christ will bring on earth?

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### APPLICATION

- When God makes promises to you, what is your default or first response? How can you grow in trusting and believing His Word starting today?
- What promises are you currently believing God for? How can you go deeper in His Word and continue to believe His promises this week?
- Think of a family member or friend who may be doubting God’s promises. How can you encourage him or her with the story of Zechariah today?

## PRAYER

- Thank God for being faithful to fulfill all His promises. Thank Him for His promises to you and your family, and believe He will be faithful to fulfill them.
- As you seek God more, ask Him to help you go from doubt to faith, from oppression to freedom, and from fear to peace.
- Pray that your family members and friends will grow in faith, move toward freedom, and experience peace as they see God work in their lives.

## NOTES

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