



Sermon Discussion Guide

DECEMBER 8, 2019 • DELAYED OBEDIENCE • ERIC CRISP
LUKE 1:5-22

PRAY

LEADER: “As I read Luke 1:5-22 aloud, take note of any word or short phrase that sticks out to you. After I read, we’ll sit in silence for a short time, and then I’ll prompt you to share that word or phrase with the group. Hear the Word of the LORD:”

Read Luke 1:5-22 aloud...slowly

(give people time to be silent and listen – maybe 60 seconds)

LEADER: “What word or phrase stuck out to you?”

*Give everyone time to respond with a word or a phrase. Encourage people not to explain, just share the word or phrase. Pray a **brief** thanksgiving to God for speaking through the Scripture.*

ENCOURAGE

What encouragement did we receive from God through this Scripture?

REFLECT AND CORRECT

Did God challenge your actions, thoughts, or dispositions with this passage? If so, share this with the group.

TEACH

Teaching Summary

Obedience takes time. Sometimes it cannot be done in day, not even in the day we are told. Like Zechariah, we must wait for another day when the opportunity presents itself, then we must be true and faithful to that moment before God will open new possibilities.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the sacred space where you expect to see God?
2. What might you pray for more fervently if you knew God was listening?
3. How is God calling you to obedience? Is it something that requires immediate action or silent waiting?
4. How is God showing His graciousness in this season? Where do you see God at work?

Transformation Questions

1. What do you think God is saying to you?
2. What is keeping you from doing this?
3. If you were to do it, what might be a good first step?
4. Who will you tell? Or who will you ask to help you?

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Throughout the Ask to Listen series, we learned how to posture ourselves in order to listen to God. The season of Advent has two specific postures as well which ready us for the coming of Christ: to be open and alert. We see an example of an alert posture in Simeon in Luke 2, who “was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel.” Mary in Luke 1 demonstrates an open posture when she responds to Gabriel, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” While we wait, it’s difficult to see Christ if we aren’t looking for him or if we have narrowed our focus to the point where we won’t see him. So, when we posture ourselves in these ways, we are watchful for and receptive to the Lord’s working.

- In the past, have you ever sensed God at work in ways that you didn't expect or imagine?
 - How did this shape your view and understanding of God?
- What are you eagerly waiting on God to do?
- Use your Scriptural imagination to think of ways God might show up that would be different than what you'd expect. Imagine how God works in bigger ways than, and out of the confines of, simply answering our pleas with "yes" or "no."
 - Ex. Zechariah (Luke 1) and Elisha's Servant (2 Kings 6)
 - What are other examples in Scripture that can speak into your anxieties, hopes, fears, or joys?