



The Big Idea

In the first week of our series, “Awaiting Advent: The Promised Messiah,” we explore the story of Elizabeth and Zachariah, a righteous and faithful couple. Through the prophecy of Zechariah in Luke 1:67-79, we see the connection to the Old Testament promises of a coming Messiah. Their miraculous conception of John the Baptist fulfilled the prophetic words in Malachi 4:5-6, preparing the way for the Messiah. From their lives, we learn about God’s faithfulness, the power of prayer, and the significance of obediently walking in His plans.



Things to Remember

“Seeing the faithfulness of God in the past brings peace to our present and faith for our future.”



Next Steps

Reflect on areas of your life where you’ve been waiting for God’s intervention. Recall moments when God has shown His faithfulness in the past to find peace and faith for your current situations.

Identify an area in your life that feels dark or challenging. Consider how the story of Zachariah and Elizabeth can inspire hope and perseverance in this situation.

As a practical step, set aside time this week to pray for patience and trust in God’s timing, especially in areas where you’ve been waiting for a long time.



Discussion Questions

1. **Discuss** How do the stories of Zachariah and Elizabeth reflect the theme of hope and answered prayers in times of darkness?
2. **Discuss** In what ways do the names of Zachariah (“God remembers”) and Elizabeth (“God is my oath”) contribute to the narrative of their faith and God’s faithfulness?
3. **Discuss** the significance of God choosing seemingly ordinary people, like Zachariah and Elizabeth, for His extraordinary plans. What does this tell us about God’s character and intentions?
4. **Discuss** How can we relate to the experience of waiting, as seen in the 400-year period between the prophecies and the birth of John the Baptist, in our own lives?



Closing Prayer

Lord, as we reflect on the stories of Zachariah and Elizabeth, help us to see Your faithfulness and timing in our lives. Teach us to wait with hope and trust in Your plans, even in our darkest times. Guide us to recognize Your hand at work, especially in the moments we feel forgotten. May we always remember that Your promises are true and Your timing is perfect. Amen.

Key Verses

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

