



DECEMBER'S THEME

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS  
STORY

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:5--25

BOTTOM LINE God uses us to do  
great things

MEMORY VERSES 1:14

LIFE APP Look for the ways you  
contribute to the ministry of others



- Tonight we will start with a Christmas “hymn sing” where the kids will be able to pick out songs from a song book.

**MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT:**

THINK  
ABOUT THIS

In week two of our series Another Christmas Story, we meet Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth. This couple, similar to Abraham and his wife Sarah, are parents to a son who would announce a brand new work of God in the world. In this case, their son, John the Baptist, would announce that Jesus was coming into the world. We are not too dissimilar from Zechariah and Elizabeth in that we are people who are waiting for God to do a new thing in our midst. This week we'll discover what we can learn for our time as they wrestle with the news that God is going to use them in a special way.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Who is Zechariah and what does he do? **He is a priest from the tribe of Aaron (Moses' brother). People in Israel were divided in a lot of different ways, and one way they were divided was by who was able to work in the temple. These people were “priests.” Zechariah was a part of that group.**
- Often times we say that people “get what is coming to them” or “that’s karma.” What does Luke say about Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth? **He says that they are “righteous” or “blameless.” It doesn’t mean morally perfect, rather they have gone through all of the proper processes for forgiveness from God.**
- It says that Elizabeth is “barren.” Can you think of any other characters that have been important in God’s story that started off barren or without a child? **(Sarah, Rachel, Hannah)** Something that is interesting is that people would say that she was barren because she was cursed by God. But the text already said that she was “righteous.” So, is it possible to be loved by God even though every thing in your life isn’t going right? How do you hold that tension together?
- How does Zechariah respond when the Angel appears to him? **(He is terrified)** How do you think you would respond in such a situation? We often ask for proof of something beyond the normal, but how ready would we be to receive such proof?
- What does the Angel say to Zechariah? **That God has heard his prayer and that he will have a son. Is that the primary reason that he is getting a son? No. The primary purpose that he is getting a son is so that, “he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the**



**people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the Godly.” In other words, This son has a big job to do.**

- How do we handle the idea that their might be purposes that are bigger than we have in mind for our lives or for the lives of the people that we love?
- In baptism your parents make a promise to raise you so that you are connected to God’s work in the world. How did they do? How do you think you would do with your own kids? In our culture it sounds very strange to say that someone else could have that much say about your life, but that would have been taken for granted in the ancient world. Is that a good or a bad thing?
- Zechariah is in stunned disbelief at the news that he and his wife Elizabeth are to have a son like John. Why do you think that Gabriel causes him to be silent until the boy is born?



# EXTRAS

## 2,4,6,8,10 Minutes of Silence

**What You Need:** Timer and a chair

**What you Do:** One of the ways that the devil works against our relationship with God is by filling our lives with noise. Our devices, advertising, social pressures, and our own inner-monologue drown out the still small voice of God in our lives. So, this week, your challenge is to begin a practice of silence. Start this week with two minutes, and each week add two more.

Find a chair where you can sit upright. Put both feet flat on the floor, place your hands on your knees, palms up, and close your eyes. Take a deep breath, drawing air from your tummy. A real breath starts low, not high. Draw in the breath as far as you can through your nose, and then exhale through your mouth. If your mind wanders, and it will, press deeper into each breath. The point is not to focus on anything. If thoughts come to your mind, let them go. Don't hold onto them, don't analyze them, just let them come and go with each breath.

# JUST FOR FUN

## Candy Cane Catch

**What You Need:** Two chairs, candy cane for each contestant, yarn, tape

**What You Do:** Tie a piece of ribbon or twine from one post or chair to another. Players must stand on top of the chairs and try to be the first to drop a candy cane from the chair onto the ribbon and get it to stay there. Play until the first player gets a candy cane to catch on the ribbon or see who can get the most in a minute.