

We read through several passages of Scripture that centered around the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus. I know this week has been busy with Christmas gatherings and trying to put the house in order.... Perhaps you'll have that done by March.

Let's review a bit of what we've read.

Luke 1:5-25

- 1. What was Zechariah doing in the temple when the angel appeared to him, and what news did the angel give?
- 2. How did Zechariah respond to the angel's message, and what consequence did he face for his response?
- 3. What does this story teach us about God's timing and answering prayer?

In the timing, think about the fact that it was Jewish tradition that a priest only serve in burning the incense once in his lifetime.

Luke 1:26-38

- 1. What was Mary's initial reaction to the angel Gabriel's greeting and message?
- 2. What promise did the angel make about the child Mary would bear, and how did the angel describe this child?
- 3. How does Mary's response to God's calling inspire your own trust in God when facing the unknown?

Luke 1:39-55

1.	What happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth, and how did Elizabeth respond?
----	---

- 2. What does Mary's song (the "Magnificat") reveal about her understanding of God's character and promises?
- 3. How can you express gratitude and praise to God for His faithfulness in your own life?

Matthew 1:18-25

- 1. What dilemma did Joseph face when he learned Mary was pregnant, and how did God reassure him?
- 2. What names are given to the child, and what do they mean for us?
- 3. How does Joseph's obedience to God's message encourage you in situations that are difficult or misunderstood?

Luke 2:1-20

- 1. Why were Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, and where was Jesus placed after His birth?
- 2. Who first received the news of Jesus' birth, and what was their response to seeing Him?
- 3. In what ways can you "make known" the good news of Jesus this week?