

ZECHARIAH, ELIZABETH, AND JOHN THE BAPTIST: PREPARING THE WAY FOR JESUS

Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What is the purpose of preparing?
- What are some of the things you prepare for in life?

Preparing is an inevitable part of life. Doing the work of getting ready prepares minds, hearts, and bodies for what's coming next. In the gospel of Luke, the Christmas story begins with God preparing his people for the coming of the Messiah and he does so through the lives of Zechariah, Elizabeth, and their son John. Remembering and listening again to their prophetic stories helps us do the important Advent work of preparing our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth and to look forward to his second coming.

Listen: [*Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist: Preparing the Way for Jesus*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- What lessons do you draw from the story of Zechariah's encounter with the angel Gabriel and of God blessing Elizabeth and Zechariah with a child in their old age? How does recognizing these truths help prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas and Jesus' second coming?
- In segment 2, host Scott Hozzee compares Zechariah's song in Luke 1:67-79 to a psalm. Think about a significant moment in your life and God's role in it. What would you include if you were to write a song like Zechariah did? What would you praise God for? In verses 76-79, Zechariah points forward to what will come. What would you say in your song about what will happen in the future?
- Why do we need to be prepared in advance for Jesus' coming?
- How does John's baptism of repentance help prepare us for Jesus' baptism into new life?

Related Passages

- **Luke 3:15-18**
- **John 1: 19-28**
- **Acts 19:1-7**
- **Isaiah 40:3**
- **John 3:16**
- **Romans 5:6-8**

- **Genesis 3:14-15**

Conclusion

Read Revelation 21:3-4. How does observing the season of Advent and studying the story of Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist help prepare your heart for the presence of God—dwelling among his people both now and when Jesus comes again?

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/zechariah-elizabeth-and-john-the-baptist-preparing-the-way-for-jesus>

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