

# Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist: Preparing the Way for Jesus

Every year many of us spend the weeks leading up to Christmas preparing. We put up festive decorations, plan menus, buy presents, and orchestrate schedules. Many occasions in life, from big to small, require preparation for what's to come. And just like we set aside time to prepare for life's events, God set aside time and sent people ahead to prepare the world for salvation. Join *Groundwork* as we continue our way through the Christmas story by studying the story of Zechariah's encounter with the angel Gabriel and witnessing how Zechariah, Elizabeth, and their son John the Baptist prepare the way for Jesus' birth. Let us allow their message to prepare our hearts again this Advent for Jesus' second coming.

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

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



**LISTEN TO THE EPISODE:** [Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist: Preparing the Way for Jesus](#)

**READ** [Luke 1:5-25, 57-66](#)

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- 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 Hoezee 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** for further study

[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?

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*Printed on June 3, 2026*