

Reflection and Discussion

Sermon Series	Immanuel
Sermon Title	Paths of Peace
Bible Texts	Luke 1:67-79
Date	December 10, 2023

CONNECT – Getting to know one another

Question 1: What brings you peace?

Question 2: Have you ever felt strength from God when you were sharing your faith?

EQUIP – Understanding God's word

The angel Gabriel had come to Zechariah the priest and told him that he would have a son. But when Zechariah doubted that message, the angel then said he would be silent and not able to speak until the child was born. When that day finally arrived, not only was Zechariah able to speak, he was also filled with the Holy Spirit and ... (Read Luke 1:62-79 to find out what came next.)

Question 3: Mary, Elizabeth, and now Zechariah have been touched by the Holy Spirit. How did each of them respond? What specifically does Zechariah do?

Question 4: God was about to do something great in the world. Who was the first to announce it? (1:70)

Question 5: A "horn" (of an animal like a bull) is a metaphor for great power. Who is the "horn of salvation" in verse 69?

Question 6: What did God promise Israel about salvation from their enemies? (1:71-75)

Question 7: How does this compare with the salvation Jesus provides? (Matthew 1:20-21)

Question 8: What does verse 77 specifically say about salvation and its coming in Christ? Why do you think "forgiveness" is singled out?

Question 9: Who is this salvation meant for? (Luke 1:79, Isaiah 8:22-9:2)

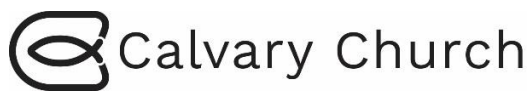
Question 10: How many reasons does Zechariah give for why God would send his salvation to these people?

Question 11: One of the reasons he gives is God's covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). Share your thoughts on how this links to Zechariah's song.

Question 12: Describe the covenant God made with David. (Psalm 132:11-12) How does this covenant relate to Zechariah's prophecy?

Question 13: Zechariah describes what God is about to do as a sunrise for people living in darkness (v 78-79). What makes that a good image for God's salvation?

Question 14: With Isaiah 60:1-3 and Malachi 4:2 as a backdrop what do you think the "sunrise from on high" means in verse 78?



- Question 15: What is the outcome in verses 74-75 that Zechariah proclaims?
- Question 16: Describe what serving God without fear in holiness and righteousness would be like.
- Question 17: What speaks most to you in Luke 1:77-79 and why?
- God's mercy
 - knowledge of salvation
 - forgiveness of sins
 - guidance to the path of peace
- Question 18: How do we find the path of peace? (Matthew 11:28-30; John 8:2)
- Question 19: Zechariah is celebrating the birth of his son John, but he spends most of his time talking about what God is about to do. What role does his son John have in all this? (v 76-77)
- Question 20: Take a moment to read Isaiah 40:3-5 and Malachi 3:1. What specific task did Zechariah's son have? Why was that task so important? (Mark 1:1-5)
- Question 21: What famous prophet did Jesus say John was like? (Malachi 4:5-6; Matthew 17:11-13)
- Question 22: What did John declare when he saw Jesus? (John 1:29-34)

DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

- Question 23: Reflect on your journey to faith in Christ. How can you use your experience to help others understand God's love, mercy and peace during Christmas?
- Question 24: Like John the Baptist, how does a life of commitment to Jesus bring peace through a life of service?
- Question 25: What is an enemy to your quiet time with the Lord? How will you seek him to find peace?