

*“When it was time for Elizabeth’s baby to be born, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup> And when her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very merciful to her, everyone rejoiced with her.*

*<sup>59</sup> When the baby was eight days old, they all came for the circumcision ceremony. They wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father. <sup>60</sup> But Elizabeth said, “No! His name is John!” <sup>61</sup> “What?” they exclaimed. “There is no one in all your family by that name.” <sup>62</sup> So they used gestures to ask the baby’s father what he wanted to name him. <sup>63</sup> He motioned for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s surprise he wrote, “His name is John.”*

*<sup>64</sup> Instantly Zechariah could speak again, and he began praising God. <sup>65</sup> Awe fell upon the whole neighborhood, and the news of what had happened spread throughout the Judean hills.*

*<sup>66</sup> Everyone who heard about it reflected on these events and asked, “What will this child turn out to be?” For the hand of the Lord was surely upon him in a special way.*

Luke 1:57-66 (NLT)

*“And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord.*

*<sup>77</sup> You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. <sup>78</sup> Because of God’s tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us <sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.” Luke 1:76-79 (NLT)*



## **"Living with Confidence"**

### **ZECHARIAH AND ELIZABETH**

#### **Who was Zechariah?**

*“When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah” Luke 1:5a (NLT)*

#### **Who was Elizabeth?**

*“His wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. <sup>6</sup> Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God’s eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord’s commandments and regulations. <sup>7</sup> They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.” Luke 1:5b-7 (NLT)*

### **1. God hears and answers our \_\_\_\_\_!**

*One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. <sup>9</sup> As was the custom of the priests, he was*

chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup> While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying. <sup>11</sup> While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. <sup>12</sup> Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John."

Luke 1:8-13 (NLT)

"Then another angel with a gold incense burner came and stood at the altar. And a great amount of incense was given to him to mix with the prayers of God's people as an offering on the gold altar before the throne." Revelation 8:3 (NLT)

"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7 (NLT)

## 2. God is \_\_\_\_\_ at work!

"You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. <sup>16</sup> And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> 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." Luke 1:14-17 (NLT)

"But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law."

Galatians 4:4 (NLT)

## 3. God can do the \_\_\_\_\_!

Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years."

Luke 1:18 (NLT)

## 4. You can be \_\_\_\_\_!

Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! <sup>20</sup> But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time." <sup>21</sup> Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah to come out of the sanctuary, wondering why he was taking so long. <sup>22</sup> When he finally did come out, he couldn't speak to them. Then they realized from his gestures and his silence that he must have seen a vision in the sanctuary. <sup>23</sup> When Zechariah's week of service in the Temple was over, he returned home. <sup>24</sup> Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months. <sup>25</sup> "How kind the Lord is!" she exclaimed. "He has taken away my disgrace of having no children." Luke 1:19-25 (NLT)