

Discussion Questions

Luke 1:5-25 - Finally? Unbelievable

Sunday, November 27, 2022

Ice Breaker (Optional. Take just a few minutes on this):

1. What is one of the first things you do to start the Christmas season?

Reflecting on the Passage

1. Read Malachi 4.
 - a. What “day” is referred to in 4:1?
 - b. What will happen then? To the wicked? To the righteous?
 - c. What sort of reaction does this prophecy stir in the hearts of a listener?
2. Read Luke 1:12-17.
 - a. In what ways are the things said by Gabriel similar to the things said by Malachi?
 - b. How did Gabriel describe the main purpose of John’s life? (vss. 16-17)
3. In response to Gabriel’s announcement, Zechariah asks, “How shall I know this?” (v. 18). How is this different from Mary’s response? (Luke 1:34)

Reflecting on your Life

4. If Zechariah asked for proof or evidence so he could be assured that these things would come about, are we therefore to draw the conclusion that we should never ask God for evidence? Should we just take things “on faith”? If asking for proof/evidence is not always wrong, when does one know s/he has crossed a line?
5. What are ways that you make sure your asking doesn’t become demanding, or your faith begins to require certainty? How do you know you are no longer asking from a humble heart and instead are asking from a prideful heart?
6. In the sermon, Pastor Paul noted that Zechariah’s life of faith had taught him that when times of unbelief come, repentance rather than despair is needed.
 - a. To what degree do the following circumstances cause instability in your faith: stress, not enough sleep, little contact with other believers, not reading your bible, lack of intentional prayer, not participating in worship, lack of self-discipline (binge watching TV, poor diet, too much time on social media, lack of exercise, etc). What are the common lies you believe about God or about yourself when the unbelief creeps in?
 - b. When you are confronted with your own unbelief, how easily do you slip into despair?
 - c. How do you pull out of unbelief or despair? What does repentance look like for you?

Deeper into Scripture

7. What do the following passages tell us about the connection between John the Baptist and Elijah? Matthew 11:7-14; 17:11-13; Mark 6:14-16.

From the bulletin.... ***Kingdom Implications for Your Life:***

8. *As the Advent season is upon us, how are you preparing the way in your own life? Which non-Christian can you invite to journey with you through this season of preparation for Christmas?*