

HFG Questions for The Birth of the Forerunner (Luke 1:56-80)

Read Luke 1:56-80

1. Why did Elizabeth insist on calling her son “John” instead of “Zacharias”? And what does this say about standing up in the face of “peer pressure”?

2. What do the names of Zacharias, Elizabeth, John, and Jesus all mean? What is the significance when we put them all together?

3. How did God use the hard experiences of suffering in Zacharias’ life? How does He use it in our own lives?

4. What was Zacharias’ first reaction after his tongue was loosed?

5. How are Mary’s *Magnificat* and Zacharias’ *Benedictus* similar?

6. Consider these words from Sunday’s sermon:

“We want God to save us from bad marriages, difficult work situations, financial setbacks, troubled teens, etc. And of course God is concerned with all of those things, and we should be praying about them and dealing with them in a Biblical manner. BUT the first and foremost thing He is concerned with in our lives is our sin! There can be no social transformation—like restored marriages or improved relationships—without spiritual regeneration. So friend, make sure that your heart is first and foremost right with God! Be sure that your soul—above everything else—belongs to Him! And be sure that there is no sin blocking your pathway of growth.”

What are your thoughts about this? Do you ever find yourself asking God to fix your situation instead of first asking Him to fix *you*?

7. What does verse 80 say about John the Baptist’s spiritual development? Are there any principles here that we could apply to our own lives?
