



Week of Monday, November 24, 2025

Luke 1:5-25

5 In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest of Abijah's division named Zechariah. His wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. **6** Both were righteous in God's sight, living without blame according to all the commands and requirements of the Lord. **7** But they had no children because Elizabeth could not conceive, and both of them were well along in years.

8 When his division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, **9** it happened that he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. **10** At the hour of incense the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. **11** An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. **12** When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified and overcome with fear. **13** But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. **14** There will be joy and delight for you, and many will rejoice at his birth. **15** For he will be great in the sight of the Lord and will never drink wine or beer. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb. **16** He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. **17** And he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people."

18 "How can I know this?" Zechariah asked the angel. "For I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years."

19 The angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and tell you this good news. **20** Now listen. You will become silent and unable to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time.”

21 Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. **22** When he did come out, he could not speak to them. Then they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was making signs to them and remained speechless. **23** When the days of his ministry were completed, he went back home.

24 After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived and kept herself in seclusion for five months. She said, **25** “The Lord has done this for me. He has looked with favor in these days to take away my disgrace among the people.”

HOPE Journaling

H – Highlight what stands out to you

O – Observe what it teaches

P – Practice this in your life

E – Express this in your prayers

Weekly Devotional

I can look back on many seasons of life when I was desperately praying for something very specific. I'm sure you can identify. You find yourself with a real need, but you cannot imagine how God will provide. Or you carry a deep and good desire, yet the doors just never seem to open. In those moments, impatience grows. You begin to wonder if God is listening—if He hears, if He cares.

It's in moments like these that we must return to what is true. Our feelings and doubts can pull us in many directions, most of which are not helpful. Scripture is full of reminders that God hears His people when they pray. David affirmed this in one of the darkest seasons of his life: **"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is near the brokenhearted; He saves those crushed in spirit."** (Psalm 34:17–18)

I often wonder if Zechariah and Elizabeth clung to passages like this during the many years they longed for a child. We can't know exactly what they read or prayed, but I'm confident they reminded themselves again and again of this truth: God hears our prayers, and God is faithful. This is how we remain faithful ourselves—by holding to what is true when we cannot make sense of the road ahead.

I'm encouraged by how Zechariah and Elizabeth lived in the middle of their sorrow. They were not perfect, but they kept walking with the Lord. Luke tells us they were "righteous in God's sight," and that they were careful to obey His Word. They continued to serve Him. Zechariah carried out his priestly duties day after day. And it was in that ordinary faithfulness that God broke in unexpectedly. An angel appeared and declared that God had heard every prayer they had prayed—and that He would answer in a specific, miraculous way. They would have a son. But this son would be more than an answer to their personal longing; he would prepare the way for the long-awaited Savior of the world.

Let me encourage you in two ways this week.

First, wherever you are, keep walking faithfully with the Lord. Stay in His Word. Serve Him in the ordinary routines of life. Very often, it is in those regular moments—just as Zechariah discovered—that God speaks, guides, and shows Himself faithful. Some of the most life-shaping moments I've experienced have come through that steady, everyday obedience. **Second**, remember that your quiet faithfulness may reach far beyond your own life. You never know how God may use your steady obedience to impact the people around you in ways you could never imagine.

-Devotional written by Jason McDonald

Read Also:

Luke 1

Genesis 18:9-15 [promise to Abraham & Sarah in old age]

1 Samuel 1 [God hears the longing of the barren and works through unexpected births]

Psalms 34 [God hears the cries of His people]

Psalms 27 [waiting with confidence in the goodness of the Lord]

Malachi 3:1; 4:5–6 [The promise of a messenger who prepares the way of the Lord]

Galatians 4:1-6 [God works in His perfect timing for salvation]

Group Discussion Questions

Where do you identify with Zechariah and Elizabeth? Share an area of life where you've prayed for something good but are still waiting.

What does Luke emphasize about Zechariah and Elizabeth's character (vv. 5–7), and what does this teach us about the reality of faithful people experiencing unmet longings?

How does Zechariah's ordinary, routine service to God (vv. 8–10) challenge or encourage you in your own daily obedience?

What strikes you about the angel's words, "Your prayer has been heard"? How does this speak to God's timing and the way He works in our lives?

Where do you see yourself wrestling with doubt like Zechariah (vv. 18–20)? How have you seen God meet you with grace even in seasons of doubt?

What is one practical way you can remain faithful this week—in the "regular routines"—trusting that God will use it to shape you and bless others?

Where might God be using your quiet, steady obedience to bless others—perhaps in ways you don't yet see?