

Vacation *The Temple*

Luke 1:5-7 NLT: When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God's eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord's commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

On our last vacation trip this summer, we're going to visit The Temple in Jerusalem and look at a wonderful story of faith, obedience, and blessing. This story involves Zechariah, one of the Jewish priests and his wife Elizabeth. Their story reveals clearly that God calls specific people to fulfill a specific purpose and we need to apply the lessons we learn from their experience to our own lives.

1A) What do we learn about Zechariah and Elizabeth in Luke 1:5-7?

1B) What similar description or similarities do you find in the following verses?

Genesis 6:8-9:

Genesis 15:2-6:

1C) We know that none of these people were "sinless," but why did they find favor with God and how should we apply this principle to our lives?

Read 1 Chronicles 24:7-10, 18-19

2A) According to 1 Chronicles, King David divided the priests into different divisions. How many divisions were there and what was the purpose for these divisions? Verses 18-19

2B) We learn in Luke 1 that Zechariah was from the priestly order of Abijah. According to 1 Chronicles 24:10, which number was Abijah?

3) According to Luke 1:8-10, what happened that set the stage for our story?

Read Luke 1:11-20:

4A) Describe what took place in The Temple including the very specific details that were given. Verses 11-17

4B) How did Zechariah respond and then what happened? Verses 18-20

4C) PERSONAL: How do you think you might have responded and why?

Read Luke 1:21-25:

5A) How did the people who were waiting for Zechariah respond? Verses 21-22

5B) How do we know that the message given to Zechariah was the truth? Verses 23-25

5C) PERSONAL: How does this encourage you to trust knowing that God's Word is true and can be applied to your life and your circumstances too?

Read Luke 1:57-66:

6A) How did Zechariah and Elizabeth demonstrate their belief and obedience to God?

6B) What are we told in verses 65-66 that should have been a sign for people to be alert and watching for God to do something miraculous in their future?

Read Luke 1:67-80:

7) PERSONAL: What do you find interesting, inspirational, or encouraging from Zechariah's song of praise?

ACT: Zechariah and Elizabeth spent their lives trying to honor God by their service to God, their trust in God, and their obedience in following God. Because of their attitudes and willingness to wait on God and to be used by Him, God blessed them with a wonderful son whom Jesus said that of all who ever lived, none was greater than John the Baptist. God had a plan for Zechariah and Elizabeth and He has a plan for us! Are we willing to wait on God's timing and to obediently serve, trust, and follow Him? Only God knows what amazing blessings He has planned for us! Be alert and watchful and ready to listen and obey!

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's read about serving the Lord and why this is so important in our lives.

Monday:

Deuteronomy 10:12 NLT

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the Lord your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul.

Tuesday:

Deuteronomy 11:13-16 NLT

If you carefully obey the commands I am giving you today, and if you love the Lord your God and serve him with all your heart and soul, then he will send the rains in their proper seasons—the early and late rains—so you can bring in your harvests of grain, new wine, and olive oil. He will give you lush pastureland for your livestock, and you yourselves will have all you want to eat. But be careful. Don't let your heart be deceived so that you turn away from the Lord and serve and worship other gods.

Wednesday:

Joshua 22:5 NLT

“But be very careful to obey all the commands and the instructions that Moses gave to you. Love the Lord your God, walk in all his ways, obey his commands, hold firmly to him, and serve him with all your heart and all your soul.”

Thursday:

1 Samuel 12:20-24 NIV

“Do not be afraid,” Samuel replied. “You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless. For the sake of his great name the Lord will not reject his people, because the Lord was pleased to make you his own. As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.”

Friday:

Matthew 6:24 NLT

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”

Saturday:

Ephesians 4:11-12 NIV

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Sunday:

Colossians 3:23-24 NIV

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

