Today's Scripture

December 1, 2019

- Luke 1:68-75
- Luke 1:11-17
- Malachi 3:1
- Isaiah 40:9
- Luke 1:18-20
- Luke 1:23-25
- Luke 1:57-80

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Family & Community Discussion

Introduction

Zechariah was an Old Testament Priest, waiting for the Promised Redeemer. Though he and his wife were elderly, and unable to have children, he prays for a son. An angel appears, and tells Him his prayer has been heard, and his wife will bear a son who will not only be an answer Zechariah's personal prayer, but who will play a part in answering the prayers of the nation of Israel. But instead of just believing and being thankful, Zechariah wants proof. The Lord responds with a 9-month "time- out", where Zechariah is not able to speak. God answers his prayer anyway, and the moment Zechariah names the child "John," in obedience to the angel's original words, his voice comes back, and his first words are considered a prophetic "song," which came to be known as the "Benedictus.

Discussion – Read Luke 1:67-79

Can you think of a time when God answered a prayer for you, and you had a hard time believing it?

Why do you think it's sometimes hard to believe that the events that unfold in your favor are really an answer to prayer?

Has it ever seemed to you that God set you aside for a while, giving you a "Time Out"?

Did you know why it was happening?

What lessons did you learn during your time out?

Sometimes a Time-Out is not about you. Have you ever had a time where you had a sense that God was giving you a time out for someone else's benefit?

When others have been sick and under your care, can you think of any lessons God was teaching you during that time?

What are some things we should be doing, and how should we be praying during those times when we feel that God is disciplining us?