

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, December 4th 2016

12/4 (Second Sunday of Advent): Doubting God's Movement (Luke 1:1-25)

Sermon Recap: Travis talked about the how of Jesus coming in Christmas. Using the story of Zechariah, he highlighted that God chose to work through the most unlikely of circumstances. He came to Zechariah during a period of prolonged prophetic silence, intense political darkness, and measured personal pain. Zechariah's doubt in God did not stop the movement of God.

1. Can you relate to being completely prepared, even looking with anticipation, to some great moment – only to miss it because of an error in assumption? (ie. Trav's story of missing the basketball game because of planning for the wrong time)
2. Zechariah and Elizabeth are both distinguished as demonstrating which characteristics before God? What is the setting (time, location, details) of Zechariah's encounter?
3. What is Zechariah's response to the good news?
4. What doubts or fears do you bring with you to small group today?
5. Zechariah was enabled to speak, finally, after he surrendered the Child to the Lord and named him John. What do you need to surrender to God?
6. **Group Activity:** Of course his joy and gladness only came after a long period of humbling silence. Travis asked everyone to make intentional effort to get silent this week and listen to God. As a group, sit in silent prayer for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, have a volunteer read out loud Zechariah's song, Lk 68-79. Reflect on the message that God gave Zechariah. How is God portrayed?

Work Application

7. Zechariah's lack of faith prohibited him from experiencing the joy and gladness of God's good news for several long months. What role does faith in God's movement play in your work relationships?
8. How might getting silent before God and listening to his leading impact your decisions at work? Where could you build this time into your schedule?

