

More Than a Manger #1

The God Who Remembers His Promises

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 1:5-25

Discussion Questions

1. What makes Christmas season special? What element of Christmas do you appreciate the most?
2. Christmas is well-celebrated in our country, but every aspect that we tend to focus on when we celebrate this day is secondary to God's incarnation, when He took the human form and revealed Himself to mankind. For 400 years between the Old Testament and the New Testament, God was silent because of mankind's sin. He remembered His promise from the Old Testament to send the Messiah through His Son Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, to save mankind from sin. Read Luke 1:5-15. The Christmas story started with a married couple named Zacharias and Elizabeth, who were both described in the Scriptures as righteous and blameless. What other facts about this couple were given in verses 5-7? What can you learn from them that would help you in handling long-standing disappointments? How were they righteous in the sight of God? (v. 6)
3. The Christmas story starts with the reminder that God remembers His promises, and His fulfillment of these promises results in three things. First, God's promises bring joy (v. 8-14). Prayer without answer must be disappointing, but don't ever think that God overlooks your prayers. He hears them, and when He answers in His perfect time, it brings joy. In their younger years, Zacharias and Elizabeth must have prayed for a child. (Children are a manifestation of God's blessings in their culture). What priestly duty was Zacharias supposed to do in verses 8-10? Describe the occurrence that overwhelmed him with fear (v. 11-12). What awesome promise did the angel Gabriel make to this elderly couple (v.

14)? Share with the group how God has demonstrated His sovereignty in your life. How do you feel about it?

4. Secondly, God's promises always fulfill a purpose (v. 14-17). When God gives promises, those are promises that you can claim. What directives did Gabriel give Zacharias about his and Elizabeth's responsibility as parents (v. 14-16)? How did Gabriel describe God's most important purpose for their future son John's, life? What's your purpose when you make promises? Discuss how important is keeping your promises to another person.
5. Thirdly, God's promises are fulfilled based on Who He is (v. 18-22). Humanly speaking, it was pretty impossible for Zacharias and Elizabeth to have a biological child because of their age. How can the promise of God be fulfilled when Zacharias and Elizabeth were already well-advanced in years, past child-bearing age, so to speak? Discuss how every promise made by God recorded in the Bible is a foundation to Who He is. Share the promises in the scripture that you claim in your daily life.

Walk

God remembers His promises (v. 24-25). After Zacharias completed his service at the temple, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. How did she react to her condition and to God's fulfilled promise of having a child (v. 25)? In this joyous season of Christmas, how do you feel or react to the fact that God had fulfilled His promise to save the people who could not save themselves? How can you build up your understanding of the fact that God is sovereign, that He has a hold over the events and circumstances of your life?

Worship & Prayer

Father, thank You for being the God who fulfills His promises. Those promises give me the strength I need everyday, because Your grace is indeed sufficient. They give me the courage I need to face daily troubles, knowing that in Christ I can do all things. They give me hope when all I see is darkness, because I know that You are God and I can be still. I acknowledge Your sovereignty over my life, and through Christ I pray that I can live a righteous life in Your eyes. May the joy of walking closely with You daily be evident in the decisions I make, in the actions I do. In Jesus' name, amen.