

PATHFINDERS

@ST LAWRENCE

LUKE 1 5-25

29/11/20



Intro...	<p><i>In the first few verses of Luke's gospel Luke has told his readers that what he is writing about is history not a fairy tale. He has checked out the evidence and interviewed eyewitnesses. We can trust what he says. Straight after that we get the most weird and unlikely story. Fact? History? Really? Yes! Luke has checked out the evidence. This really happened! The most amazing event in history was about to take place - God was about to come to earth as a baby - not surprisingly God did some extraordinary things to prepare the way...</i></p>
Read...	<p>Luke 1:5-25 https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%201%3A5-25&version=NIV Or listen to it here... https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/mclean/niv/Luke-1-5-Luke-1-25</p>
watch	<p>https://youtu.be/v57PKaLp2LA A video with the Bible reading...</p> 
Watch...	<p>A 7 minute chat about the passage ... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRFRGB1nmLs</p>
Think...	<p><i>Read or listen to Luke 1:5-25 again. Look at verse 7 1. What do we find out about Zechariah and Elizabeth in verses 5-7? In today's language they were good, upstanding members of their community and church, they were old, but had not been able to have kids and now they were too old. In those days having kids was a sign of God's blessing - so not having them was doubly hard.</i></p>

2. Zechariah was on duty in the Temple (they took it in turns - it was his turn...) and suddenly an angel appeared. Not surprisingly Z was terrified! V12.

What does the angel tell Zechariah? V13 What does he tell him about the child his wife will have? v14-17

3. How does Zechariah react to the news? V18?

4. What does the angel think of that? V19 What happens to Zechariah as a result? V19-20

5. Elizabeth gets pregnant just as the angel said! How does she react? V25?

6. Zechariah was a good guy v1. He did all the right things, he believed in God, he was even a priest...but when God actually answered his prayers...he didn't believe it. It is very easy to "be religious" but never to really expect God to be at work in our lives or to answer our prayers. God is not interested in us just "going through the motions". He wants us to trust him and know him.

7. When do you find it hardest to really trust God? Do you believe that God really hears your prayers? Why not pray now - remember God doesn't always answer us as we expect - that was true for Zechariah - but he always hears and always answers. Be ready when he does!

Listen...



<https://youtu.be/GImLRWcxmjo>

Zechariah's song – how can I keep silent? Later in Luke chapter 1 after the promised baby – John the Baptist – is born, Zechariah can finally speak – and he praises God with the words of this song.

Pray...

- Talk to God knowing that he hears you - don't just pray because you think you should!
- Thank God that he hears you. God knew that Zechariah and Elizabeth had always longed for a baby - He knows all about you too - what you long for, what you fear...
- Be genuine with God and tell him about how you are feeling, what you are worried about, scared about, happy about. God wants us to talk to him - not just "say our prayers"!