

Whyte Ridge Baptist – November 22, 2026

The Gospel of Luke: Seeing Jesus Clearly

When God Breaks The Silence
(Luke 1:5-25)

God's people were waiting . . .

Unpacking Luke 1:5-25

1. **God Is at Work Even When Life Doesn't Make Sense**

What's in a name?

a. Zechariah's name means, *'the Lord remembers.'*
b. Elizabeth's name means, *'God keeps His promises'.*
c. John's name means*, 'the Lord is gracious.'*

2. **God Hears the Prayers We Think Have Gone Unanswered**

3. **God's Promises Are Greater Than Our Doubts**

Conclusion: The Silence Was Never the End of the Story

Questions for Discussion:

1. **Faithfulness Amidst Disappointment (Luke 1:5-7): Zechariah** and Elizabeth were described as righteous and blameless, yet they lived with decades of infertility and social stigma under Herod's rule and 400 years of prophetic silence. Where do you see a disconnect between faithfulness and circumstances today, and how do you guard against assuming God is absent or displeased when life doesn't make sense?
2. **God at Work Behind the Scenes:** The sermon highlights that even when God seemed silent–and Israel faced foreign empires, persecution, and internal division–He was quietly setting the stage for the Messiah,
while also weaving together Zechariah's personal longing and Israel's national hope. Where might God be quietly preparing something in your life, family, or church that isn't obvious yet?
3. **Unanswered Prayers and Ordinary Faithfulness (Luke 1:8-17): God** met Zechariah in the middle of a routine priestly duty and assured him that his prayer had been heard, even after years of waiting. Have you ever stopped expecting a prayer to be answered, and how does this passage reshape how you view prayer when the timing or answer looks different than you hoped?
4. **Doubt vs. God's Promises (Luke 1:18-20**): It's one thing to believe God did miracles in the past, and another to trust Him with what feels impossible right now. When you face a situation that seems out of reach, what tends to be your first reaction–trust or doubt–and how does Gabriel's reminder that God's words are fulfilled "in their time" challenge you?
5. **Being Faithful in the Waiting (Luke 1:21-25): Living** in a culture of instant results makes waiting hard, whether we're waiting on healing, a restored relationship, or a breakthrough. What does it look like to stay faithful while waiting on God's timetable, and how can we encourage one another in this season?