

LUKE 1 - LIFE GROUP NOTES

As usual, please use, adapt or discard these as necessary

1. What are your thoughts about advent? Maybe you could try calling out the first words that comes to mind at the mention of the 'advent', 'December' or 'Christmas'. Don't try for the 'right' or 'Christian' answer but just be honest about what you actually feel.
2. **Read Luke 1:1-4.** What can you tell about how Luke is approaching the events we celebrate at Christmas? You might refer to Philemon 1:24, Colossians 4:14 and 2 Timothy 4:11, which, though very brief, tell us a little of Luke's relationships and role.
3. **Read Luke 1 v5-25, v57-66.** a. What does Zechariah's part tell you about what God's plan for history? What does it tell us about how God acts? b. What do you think of Zechariah's response in v18? See also Mark 9:24. Did you ever feel similarly? c. v59 highlights how what we find completely natural and obvious can be in opposition to God's plan. How can we inoculate ourselves against the fact that "our ways are different to God's ways" (ref Isaiah 55)? Maybe another way to put it is "What are God's ways like?"
4. **Read Luke 1:26-45.** Contrast Mary and Elizabeth's responses with Zechariah's. What allowed Mary and Elizabeth to respond differently to Zechariah? Luke 18:16-17 and 1 Cor 1:27 may be helpful.
5. **Read Luke 1:46-56.** Much of this response from Mary is not specific to her circumstances. Rather, it is a list of truths about God she has taken to heart and snippets of scripture or hymns that she remembers. Do you have a similar list that you can fall back on when you're feeling weak or under attack? If not, maybe it's time to start creating one.
6. **Read Luke 1:67-80.** This has many similarities to Mary's song. Where it goes further is in verses 77-79 prophetically describing how God will go about his rescue mission and what the result will be. Take a few moments to meditate on this before turning to prayer.

CONCLUSION

Turn this study into prayer for how we can better align ourselves with God, battle our unbelief and set our compass on the 'mountain top' experience where God is leading us.

Tim, Dec 19