

SMALL GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **December 1, 2013 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "God's Christmas Preparations, Part 1." Please read the sermon passage (Luke 1:5-25) together out loud.

Small Group Questions (Luke 1:5-25)

Sermon Outline:

1. Anticipation of God's faithfulness (5-7)
2. Participation in God's story (8-23)
3. Celebration of God's timing (24-25)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. It's easy to be discouraged by headlines which seem to lead us to believe that God has forgotten his promises. But in the "days of Herod," king of the Jews," God was quietly at work preparing the way for Jesus, the true King of the Jews. Discuss God's faithfulness in world events.
2. We are personally prepared for Christmas as we faithfully serve God in the midst of painful disappointments. In what way has your service to God been impacted by your disappointments?
3. Each of us is called to participate in Christmas by obeying Matthew 28:18-20. That is, faithfully making disciples of people of all nations by teaching them to observe the Lord's command to trust Jesus Christ. In what ways are you having opportunities to make disciples?
4. Zechariah closes his "song" (Luke 1:67-80) by asking God to "guide our feet into the path of peace." In what way has God used you to bring peace into the life of the people around you? In what way is their tension in your answer to number 3 ("preach the Gospel") and your answer to this question (walking in the "path of peace")? In what way is there harmony?
5. True Christ-followers should be leading the charge in terms of celebrating God's faithfulness during the Advent season. How does your celebration of God's timing at Christmas differ from the typical celebration of Christmas around you?