

## SMALL GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **December 22, 2013 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), “God’s Christmas Preparations, Part 4.” Please read the sermon passage (Luke 1:57-80) together out loud.

### Small Group Questions (Luke 1:57-80)

#### Sermon Outline:

We praise God for keeping his promise . . .

1. To redeem his people (vv 68-71) [Promise to David]
2. To show his mercy (vv72-75) [Promise to Abraham]
3. To send his ‘forerunner’ (vv 76-77) [Promise about John the Baptist, Isaiah 40]
4. To send Messiah (vv78-80) [Promise about Jesus, Genesis 3:15; 12:3; Isaiah 9; 53]

#### Small Group Discussion Questions

1. God is faithful. But his discipline usually finds us unprepared, and sometimes makes us doubt him all the more. God’s discipline pressed Zechariah to meditate on, to believe and to praise God for God’s promises and God’s Word. What effect is God’s discipline having on you?
2. Zechariah experienced many months of God’s discipline for his unbelief. He might have said, “Enough already. I have learned my lesson.” But he did not. When Zechariah could finally speak, only praises and thankfulness came out of his mouth. In the midst of waiting on God, what kinds of words are coming out of your mouth? Are you learning to love and trust God’s promises? Or are you complaining about something?
3. God made a promise to David to redeem his people. John the Baptist is the forerunner, of the first step in God keeping his promise to his people to redeem them. Zechariah described God’s redeeming his people as “as good as done” (Luke 1:68). What promises do you trust as if they are “as good as done”?
4. God has every right to NOT redeem sinners. But he has kept his word. We considered the words of Abraham Lincoln: when asked what would be done with the southern rebels a crowd shouted that they should “hang them.” Lincoln asked, “Did I hear you saying we should ‘hang on to them’?” God has gone to great lengths to hang on to the rebels. How can you better display God’s heart of mercy to rebels? How can you greater appreciate his heart of mercy toward you?
5. Jesus is the rising sun. Discuss in what ways he has shed light on this world, and in what ways he will shed further light in the future. Worship him together!