

# GroupWork

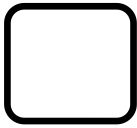
Bible Study Discussion Starters

*Life application materials for use in small group Bible study and home devotions, and personal use..*

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1. Share any news from family and friends that you learned over Thanksgiving. Join in prayers of thanksgiving for the good news and in prayers of comfort for those who learned of sad news, especially those who experienced the horrible event at the Waukesha Christmas parade.
  
2. **Read Luke 1:5-7.**
  - a. List some of the other Biblical examples of couples who were not able to conceive.
  
  - b. Why do you think this miracle of conception for a childless couple is a recurring theme in the Bible? What lessons might we learn from these events?
  
3. **Read Numbers 6:1-8 about the Law of the Nazarite.** What every day habits would have reminded John the Baptist, a Nazarite from birth, that he was consecrated to the Lord for a special mission? What every day habits do you have that remind you that you are consecrated to the Lord for a special mission?
  
4. **Compare Luke 1:16-17 and I Kings 18:16-46.** John the Baptist was to come “in the spirit and power of Elijah” (Luke 1:17). In what ways was John the Baptist’s ministry like Elijah’s? What would a Elijah/John the Baptist kind of ministry look like today? Has God called you to that kind of ministry?
  
5. **Read Luke 1:18-22.** Zechariah doubted the Lord’s word, but God’s promise was still fulfilled. How can you use this account when talking with someone who is afraid because they doubt God’s love or power?
  
6. Our theme for this week is “inexhaustible hope.” Close by reading together **Romans 15:13** several times to begin to memorize it. Let it be a blessing you pronounce on each and a prayer that God the Father help us trust in his Son so that hope might flow out through us to the world around us.

**“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”**



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points.

## Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child: Inexhaustible Hope

Luke 1:5-25

*"Who hopes for what they already have?" (Romans 8:24)*

### I. Hope dies

- a. Hope grows as you page through the catalogue
  - i. Zachariah and Elizabeth
  - ii. The people of Waukesha
  - iii. What do you want from the catalogue?
- b. Hope dies
  - i. Too old
  - ii. Too horrible
  - iii. Too ...

### 2. Hope grows anew as you page through God's catalogue

- a. Aaron
- b. Samson
- c. Elijah
- d. Isaiah
- e. Malachi
- f. Daniel
- g. Ezekiel

### 3. Hope too good to be true?

- a. Doubts about God's power – Can he do this?
- b. Doubts about God's justice – Is he fair?
- c. Doubts about God's love – Am I too ruined?



### My Next Steps

- **Page through Luke's Catalogue.** If you aren't already reading God's Word every day, make a commitment to read one chapter of Luke per day during December. Luke was written to remove doubts and raise hope in the heart of Theophilus and in each of us. One chapter per day – Dec 1 – Dec 24.
- **Share the Hope.** Consider how you can share the hope that you have through participation in the Gift Tree in our lobby or a special gift for God's Work this Christmas season.