

The Gospel According to Luke - Week 2

"Mothers"

Part 1: Infertility

Luke 1:5–7

- I. Walked blamelessly
- II. Advanced in Years

Part 2: Miracle and Doubt

Luke 1:8–25

- I. Our prayers are heard in the throne room of God
- II. Doubt
 - a. Doubt does not stem from a lack of evidence, but a sinful heart
 - b. Doubt is often connected with disappointments or long-term trials.
- III. Solution to doubt
 - a. Immerse ourselves in truth
 - b. Continual focus on the object of our faith

Part 3: Messiah and Servanthood

Luke 1:26–45

- I. Follow the truth of God over false religious or societal pressures
- II. Prayer Matters
- III. Your greatest impact on this world may not be something you do, but someone you raise.

Questions for Individual Bible Study or Group Discussion:

1. Read Luke 1:5–7. Have you or anyone in your group walked alongside someone who dealt with infertility? What was that like? If you never have, how can you prepare yourself to handle that situation? Is there any 'wrong theology' you may have?
 - a. Despite the trial and wrong theological religious pressure, Zechariah and Elizabeth walked blamelessly before God. What does that mean? John Piper puts it this way - *"Don't over-spiritualize it. Don't treat it as perfectionism. Don't think of it as legalism. Don't demean it as a defective part of the "old covenant." Take it for what it is: a godly man/or woman, who knows they are a sinner, pardoned for God's name's sake, justified by grace, trusting God's mercy, depending on God's Spirit, taking refuge in God's protection, delighting in God's beauty, keeping God's covenant, and therefore walking in integrity and honesty and uprightness.*
2. Read Luke 1:8–25. Have you ever experienced doubt in your life? When and why?
 - a. Doubt does not stem from a lack of evidence, but from our sinful hearts- what evidence do we see on a daily basis?
 - b. The solution to doubt is to immerse ourselves in truth and have continual focus on the object of our faith (Jesus): What does that look like in your day-to-day life?
3. Read Luke 1:26–56.
 - a. Mary and Joseph had to deal with a lot of societal stigma as well (a young pregnant teenager not yet married) yet she remained faithful to what God called her to do. What does it look like for us to do the same?
 - b. Since it's Mother's Day read these passages and write down the feminine characteristics and metaphors that God has
 - i. Isaiah 66:13, Isaiah 49:15, Deuteronomy 32:11, Psalm 22:9–10, 71:6, Hosea 13:8, Luke 13:34
 - ii. Like Luke 13:34-God longs for you to be reconciled to Him. If you've never been reconciled, would you do that today?

Final Question: What are ways you can encourage a female in your life today? (mother, spiritual mother, friend, spouse, daughter, niece?)