

You can be certain

Small group questions

Luke 1:5-25 Certain... that John the Baptist prepared the way

1. Why do we crave certainty about things? Mark said – “we want certainty about our finances, our family, our health, our future”. Anything else? What do you most want certainty about?
2. Are you personally certain about Jesus? What causes you to doubt?

Luke says we can be certain:

About John - read Luke 1:5-17

3. Why does Luke start with Zechariah and why locate it in terms of history and geography?
4. Zechariah and Elizabeth had had no children. What are some of the issues that raises for such a godly couple both then and now?
5. Have you been surprised by the Lord’s answer to prayer at a time you least expected it?
6. What are the signs that Zechariah and Elizabeth’s baby would be no ordinary son?

Fulfilling the promise - read Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1 and 4:5

7. John will be this forerunner!! What does that mean in terms of God’s promise to redeem Israel?
8. Why does Zechariah have trouble comprehending/believing all Gabriel has said? What do we learn from Gabriel’s response to Zechariah’s doubts?
9. Mark said God speaks to us through his Word, as clearly as Gabriel spoke to Zechariah! Mark shared that he sometimes puts himself *above* God’s word, not *under* it. What did he mean by that? How should we read God’s word today?

That someone will prepare the way of the Lord - read Luke 1:18-25

10. Gabriel announces that John would make ready a people prepare for the Lord in three ways:
 - a. Bring back to God, many people of Israel
 - b. Turn the hearts of parents (or fathers) to their children
 - c. Turn the disobedient to the ways of the righteous.

Explore what that meant in the 1st century, and then what it means for us now, as we prepare for the Lord’s (second) coming.

Take homes

11. **Answered prayer** - how can we be become people who wait patiently for prayer to be answered and not be surprised when it is - trusting God’s great wisdom and perfect timing?
12. **Heading God’s word:** how can we make sure we accept God’s word when he speaks to us through the Bible, revelling in God’s promises and obeying his commands?
13. **Being ready** for the coming of the Lord. Returning if we’ve wandered off, serving our families, and if we’re not yet Christian - repenting and believing the Good News. Pray we’ll be a people prepared!

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for revealing your plan of salvation through Luke’s account of John the Baptist. Help us to be certain of Jesus and to share this certainty with others. May your Word guide us, shape our lives, and prepare our hearts for your return. Grant us patience in waiting for your answers and wisdom to walk in obedience to your will. We pray in Jesus’ name, Amen