



THE

Fullness OF Time

But in the fullness of time, God send forth His Son... Galatians 4:4

December 6, 2020

BE SILENT

Luke does not begin the Christmas story with the birth of Jesus. He doesn't even begin with an introduction to Mary and Joseph. Instead, Luke begins by telling the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, an older couple who appeared to be out of time. When God tells Zechariah that he is finally going to be a father, Zechariah questions God's timing and finds himself speechless for the next nine months. Join us for part one of The Fullness of Time as we consider how God's timing increases our faith and draws our attention to Him and His perfectly timed plans.

Passage: Luke 1:5-25 and 57-80

What to do when God appears to be late:

1. Don't mistake God's _____ for His _____ .
2. Don't allow your _____ to blind you to God's _____ .
3. Embrace the _____ and _____ for the Lord.

Small Group Questions

December 6, 2020

Use this outline for personal reflection, as a couples or family devotion, or with a small group.

Hangout (warming up to the topic):

1. Have you ever experienced prolonged silence? How did it make you feel? Are you someone who avoids or craves silence? What is it about silence that you like/dislike?

Hear (listening to God through Scripture):

2. Read Luke 1:57-66.

- Why do you think Luke started his Christmas narrative with the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth? What does this story tell us about God and His silence?

3. Read Luke 1:67-75.

- What were Zechariah's first words following months of silence? Is there any significance to those being his first words following his prolonged silence?
- What does it mean that Zechariah was "filled with the Holy Spirit"? How is that possible if Jesus hadn't been born when this happened? What was the role of the Holy Spirit prior to the birth of Jesus? (see *Galatians 1:1-2, 26; Genesis 6:3*)
- What verb tense does Zechariah use in verses 68-75? If Jesus hadn't been born at the time Zechariah is saying this, why is he speaking of God's deliverance in the past tense?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:20. How does this verse affect what you think about Zechariah's use of the past tense? What does 2 Corinthians 1:20 and the story of Zechariah tell you about God's unfulfilled promises?

4. Read Luke 1:76-80.

- To whom is Zechariah speaking in these verses?
- To whom is he referring in these verses?
- How might a period of silence and stillness help you connect to God and His Word this Advent?

Huddle (making it personal and praying together - in huddles):

5. Are you experiencing a prolonged silence from God right now? When was the last time you heard from Him? What do you believe He said to you last time you heard from Him? Could His silence be due to any unconfessed sin or a lack of repentance on your part? If not, how is His silence drawing you closer to Him? Invite accountability and pray together.