

Study Guide: God Has Not Forgotten
Luke 1:5–25

Big Idea: *What seems like silence to man is often God's sovereignty at work.*

Discussion Starter: Describe a time when you later discovered God was working in a situation even though you could not see it at the time.

Read the Passage: Read Luke 1:5–25 together.

I. A Righteous Couple (Luke 1:5–7)

Read Verses 5–7

Observation Questions

1. How does Luke describe Zechariah and Elizabeth?

2. What burden were they carrying?

3. Why is it significant that Luke emphasizes both their righteousness and their barrenness?

Discussion Questions

1. Why do people often assume suffering is evidence of God's displeasure?

2. How does this passage challenge prosperity-gospel thinking?

3. Can faithful believers experience disappointment and hardship? Why?

Digging Deeper

- Psalm 34:18
- Romans 8:28
- 2 Corinthians 4:17–18

Application: *What current disappointment in your life is tempting you to question God's goodness?*

II. A Remarkable Commission (Luke 1:8–17)

Read Verses 8–17

Observation Questions

1. How was Zechariah chosen to serve in the temple?

2. What message did Gabriel bring?

3. What characteristics would mark John's ministry?

Discussion Questions

1. What does this passage teach us about God's providence?

2. Why is it difficult to trust God's timing?

3. What modern "Baals" compete for people's worship today?

4. What does John's life teach us about true greatness?

Digging Deeper

- Proverbs 16:33
- Malachi 4:5–6
- John 3:30

Application: *What area of your life requires greater trust in God's timing and providence?*

III. A Resulting Consequence (Luke 1:18–25)

Read Verses 18–25

Observation Questions

1. How did Zechariah respond to Gabriel's message?

2. What consequence followed his unbelief?

3. How did Elizabeth respond after conceiving?

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it often easier to pray for something than to believe God will answer?

2. What obstacles tend to hinder our faith?

3. How does God's faithfulness encourage us when our faith feels weak?

Digging Deeper

- Numbers 23:19
- 2 Timothy 2:13
- Hebrews 10:23

Application: *What promise of God do you need to believe personally rather than merely intellectually?*

Gospel Connection

The greatest evidence that God has not forgotten His people is not the birth of John the Baptist but the coming of Jesus Christ.

God sent His Son at exactly the right time to save sinners. The cross proves that God remembers His promises and faithfully accomplishes His purposes.

Read

- Romans 5:6–8
- Galatians 4:4–5
- Romans 10:13

Discuss: *How does the cross strengthen your confidence that God has not forgotten you?*

Weekly Challenge

This week:

1. Write down one prayer you have nearly stopped praying.
2. Spend time thanking God for three ways He has proven faithful in the past.
3. Share with someone how God has worked through a season of waiting in your life.
