



You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. Luke 1:77

Bible Study:



Read Luke 1:5-25 and 57-80. This lesson begins our journey into the New Testament by telling the story of Zechariah, Elizabeth and the birth of their son John. It is a story of God's faithfulness and sovereignty, as He puts an end to a 400 year "dry spell" of silence through yet another miraculous birth.

From the time God redeemed the nation of Israel out of Egypt, to the time the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity, God communicated with His people. Whether it was by sending angels, or by giving His word to prophets, God spoke to His people to provide guidance and reassurance. However after the return of the exiles, there was a period of 400 years of silence, in which God did not send any prophets to His people.

But even in His silence, God remained faithful to His people. He did not forget about them, and was about to prove it by raising up a new prophet who would bring very good news to His people.

The gospel in the story:



Find, discuss and give thanks for the language of the Good News of Jesus clearly proclaimed in Zechariah's prophesy he sang over his son John (Luke 1:68-79):

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed
them.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David
(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
salvation from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us—
to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,
the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear

in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most
High;

for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way
for him,
to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace."