

## ***The Meaning of Memory***

**Pastor's message:** Luke 1:18-20; 63-79

**Message Notes:**

### **Wednesday**

**Read:** Luke 1:67-71 *Zechariah's blessing*

**Questions for Reflection and Application**

1. *What does it mean to you to be redeemed by God?*
2. *Zechariah praises God for having already redeemed God's people. Does this mean that Jesus did not need to be born?*

**Prayer Focus.** We're not good at waiting, Holy One. Our longings are deep, our yearning for peace, healing, hope, and help sometimes overtake us. Yet, you keep repeating your covenant to us. You go on keeping your promise. Help us rest from our longing and take hope in your faithful love.

### **Thursday**

**Read:** Luke 1:72-75 *Zechariah's prophecy*

**Questions for Reflection and Application**

1. *What makes you sometimes fear to serve God?*
2. *How does it help to know the context of Zechariah's story in the history of our relationship with God?*

**Prayer Focus** We gather strength this Advent, knowing that our faith in you places us on solid ground. Thank you for release from our fears and the freedom it brings.

### **Friday**

**Read:** Luke 1:76-79 *Zechariah's hope*

**Questions for Reflection and Application**

1. *How does Zechariah's prophecy have meaning for us today?*
2. *What might you do this season to walk in the way of peace?*

**Prayer Focus** Let dawn break on us this season, Loving God. Let us take joy to think of the light you bring to our darkness. Guide us to find and carry that light so we can help bring the peace that can transform your world.

## Small Group Format



### Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Briefly, has there been a time when waiting really paid off for you?*

### Opening Prayer

### Song (optional)

### Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Luke 1:18-20; 63-79**

- Discuss observations about the text
  - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
  - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

*Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)*

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

### Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

### Pray for each other

### Refreshments (optional)

## THE MEANING OF MEMORY

### December 3, 2023

### Monday

**Read:** Luke 1:18-20 *Zechariah and the angel*

**Questions for Reflection and Application**

1. *Why would God make Zechariah mute?*
2. *How do you handle silence? Does it make you uncomfortable? Peaceful? Other?*

**Prayer Focus** We are often like Zechariah, needing proof before we can have faith. Sometimes, we fail to see proof standing right before us. As we begin this Advent season, God of our hearts, help us to hear, to see, to believe the Good News.

### Tuesday

**Read:** Luke 1:63-66 *Zechariah speaks*

**Questions for Reflection and Application**

1. *Why did Zechariah regain his speech after he announced the child's name?*
2. *Why were Zechariah's words so talked about in that region? Why were people afraid?*

**Prayer Focus** The people were shaken up by the angel's message and Zechariah's praises. You knew what you were doing! Place your hand on us, today, great God. Shake us up for a new beginning.

