

Welcome to the
twentieth week of
25 Weeks of Advent!

The stories of Advent all give us some insight as to the point and value of Jesus' life for us.

Zechariah means,
"God remembers."
Elizabeth means, "God's promise."
Doesn't it seem as though God was leaving clues for his people? He was going to show up!

Four hundred years of silence was broken; an angel appeared to Zechariah, proclaiming a message from God that his wife (who could not conceive: Lk 1:7) would bear a son, "John," which means, "God is gracious."

Now, God's clues began to drop like breadcrumbs— "My grace is coming; in fact, it's here! I am faithful to remember my promises—and powerful to bring about miracles! Look! Jesus is just around the corner!"

The angel proclaims a message of power and hope to Zechariah. Zechariah's son, John would later proclaim a message of power and hope to all people—prepare the way for the Lord!

(But that's next week's story!)

Week 20: God Remembers

Read: Luke 1:5—25

What a proclamation the angel makes to Zechariah! And what is his response? "*How can I be sure? When I look at myself and my wife... well, I'm old—and my wife is getting along in years, too!*"

Isn't that our tendency too? Zechariah wasn't being illogical— in fact, he was very logical! He looked at his situation and asked the same question that we always ask: How can I be sure that God will do this?
I'm old. I'm young. I'm stuck in a 9 to 5 job. My bank account is always empty. I've had two miscarriages already. I'm too lonely. I'm too broken. I'm too sick. There's not enough time.

God silenced Zechariah when he saw only logic and didn't trust God's promise. God doesn't ask us to be logical. He asks for faith.

'Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see... Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him' — Hebrews 11:1,6



Readings for your Week

John the Baptist is born
Luke 1:57—80

By faith, many people saw God working in miraculous ways!
Hebrews 11:1—40

Call unto me, and I will answer thee!
Luke 11:5—13
Jeremiah 32:26, 36—41, 33:1—16

