



## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

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**Open:** If you have children, why did you give them the names you did?

**Read & Discuss:** Luke 1:57-66

1. In verse 58 how does the community initially react to the birth of John the Baptist? Why do you think they would have perceived John's birth as God showing Elizabeth great mercy? According to Luke's testimony, what evidence had they been given so far that John's birth was something extraordinary? (See Luke 1:21-25)
2. Why does the community seem to expect them to name the child Zechariah, according to verses 59 and 61? What does Elizabeth's insistence on naming her son John demonstrate (v. 60)? How can our actions to follow God create opportunity for others to marvel at God, especially when it goes against societal expectations?
3. How does Zechariah's response to the birth of his son in verses 62-64 differ from his initial reaction to the angel's message? What does this change reveal about what God has grown in him over the last 10 months? (*What do you suppose Zechariah might have been thinking about during his nine months of being unable to speak, and possibly hear?*)
4. Have you ever experienced a time of waiting on God, similar to Zechariah and Elizabeth? What did you learn in that time of waiting? How can we express our gratitude to God for the growth He provides in situations like these? How do you think sharing your story might impact others?
5. Why do you think the community wonders about John's future (v. 66)? What kind of pressures do you think this expectation might have placed on this family as John grew up? How does the weight of others watching you tend to affect you?
6. How does this passage demonstrate the power of God to work in accordance with His good plan? The community in the hill country of Judea had a variety of responses (vs. 58, 61, 63, 65-66) to these circumstances as they unfold. Does the fact that God has a plan typically fill you more with rejoicing, wonder, or fear? Explain.

**Apply:** How can we better foster *a community of faith* that celebrates God's miraculous works and that anticipates His future plans? How can we encourage *in our world* a growing sense of wonder and anticipation for God's work in our lives and the world?

**Pray:** Spend time praising God together. Ask Him to use each of us individually and all of us collectively for His great purposes.