



CHURCH OF THE  
**Good Shepherd**

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NOVEMBER 24, 2024

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## **Sermon Discussion Questions: Luke 1:1-25**

**Context: Mark's first point was "God makes big promises". In this case, after years of prayerful longing, Elizabeth and Zechariah had given up hope on having a child. Now the angel Gabriel comes with God's promise for a child.**

- Have you ever faithfully done the right things for a long time but they just haven't worked out the way you expected? How have you responded to these circumstances (toward yourself, others or God)?
- Has God ever helped you see how these things have/will work together for good – or is it still messing with you?
- Why does God allow us to go through hard times?

**Mark's second point is that we, like Zechariah, often doubt when we hear God's promises. This doubt and cynicism go all the way back to the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3 – "Has God said?")**

- Talk about the control struggle involved in our doubting God's promises.
- Why is it difficult to trust God in our current circumstances when we have faced previous disappointments?

**In his third point Mark asserts that Gabriel's rebuke of Zechariah, including 9 months when he could not talk, was actually a great mercy.**

- Why did Mark say this was an act of mercy?
- How has time and reflection (let alone silence!) made a difference in your perspective?
- What role does repentance have in gaining a better understanding of God's purposes?

**The roles of Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist were one part of God's bigger plan.**

- How does seeing things from the perspective of God's bigger plan make a difference in coping with our limited understanding of his will?