

Luke  
1:39-80

Mary's  
Song of  
Praise &  
Zechariah's  
Prophecy

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Sunday,  
January 11

After hearing about two miraculous births foretold in [Luke 1:1-38](#), Luke goes on to tell us about the two women involved spending time together.

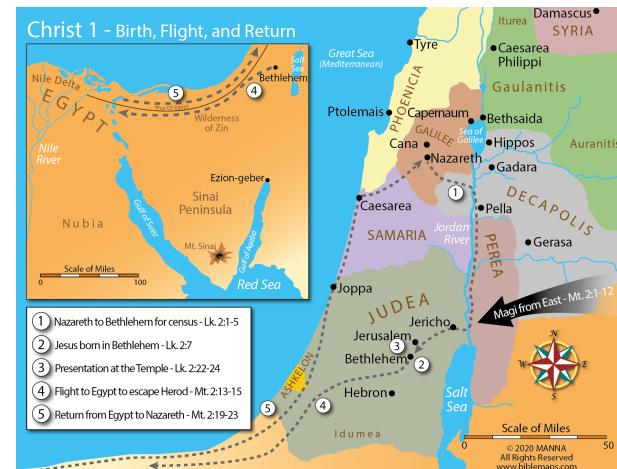
In those days \_\_\_\_\_ arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby \_\_\_\_\_ in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "\_\_\_\_\_ are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my \_\_\_\_\_ should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who \_\_\_\_\_ that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." ([1:39-45](#))

Mary responds by singing a beautiful song of praise to the Lord ([1:46-55](#)) that we'll explore in detail as a class. [Luke 1:56](#) tells us that Mary spent about three months in Judah before returning to her home in Nazareth.

When the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives assumed that he would be named Zechariah after his father. When she insisted that the baby was to be called John, they made signs to Zechariah who had been unable to speak for months ([1:18-23](#)).

And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is \_\_\_\_\_. And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, \_\_\_\_\_ God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child \_\_\_\_\_?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. ([1:63-66](#))

How does [Luke 1:39-80](#) help us grow in certainty about Jesus? Let's talk about it...



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- When we read that Elizabeth was “filled with the Holy Spirit” (1:41), what are we being told?
- “And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” (1:43). In what way is this an absolutely incredible statement?
- What valuable insight are we given about Mary in 1:45?
- How would you summarize Mary’s poetic praise in 1:46-55? In your own words, what is she saying? How does the overall message relate to the upcoming birth of her son?
- Why were Elizabeth and Zechariah so intent on naming their son John (1:57-66)?
- We can only speculate, but why do you think Zechariah’s tongue was immediately loosed once he wrote on the writing tablet, “His name is John” (1:63-64)?
- Take your time with Zechariah’s prophecy (1:67-79). What should we take away from...
  - “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people.”
  - “He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.”
  - “As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.”
  - “To show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.”
  - “You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.”
  - “Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”