

**A MIRACULOUS BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT:  
JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
LUKE 1:5-25

In the \_\_\_\_\_, God is working.

Through the \_\_\_\_\_, God is working

In the daily \_\_\_\_\_, God is working.

It can be \_\_\_\_\_ that God is working,  
while in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Take Home Idea:** Even when the time is dark, \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ God is \_\_\_\_\_ and God is \_\_\_\_\_.

**FURTHER STUDY QUESTIONS**

**Opening**

- Review Pastor Joel's sermon and Take Home Idea. What struck you about the sermon? What do you have questions about?
- What was the happiest unexpected gift you had ever gotten?

**Dig**

- Identify what historical references Luke makes in this passage. What difference does that make?
- Why do you think God chose this particular time and place to give Zechariah the announcement? What does this tell you about God?
- Why do you suppose Zechariah had such trouble believing Gabriel?
- Compare and Contrast the different reactions Zechariah and Elizabeth had to the announcement they were to have a boy. What does that reveal about each of them?
- What is God communicating by making Zechariah mute?
- How do you think you would react if God communicates that something physically impossible will happen in your life?
- What was to be unique about John? What was God's purpose in raising up John the Baptist (vs. 16-17)?

**Reflect**

- How difficult is it for you to trust that God is working in the darkness, in the pain, in the daily routines? How is your relationship with God affected?
- Close this time by praying together as a family.