

GLIMMER OF HOPE

LUKE 1:5-25

- Though we may be experiencing DISAPPOINTMENT, God is at work to fulfill His PROMISES.
Luke 1:5-7
- God's promises are both cosmic and PERSONAL in scope, and they all point towards JESUS.
Luke 1:8-17
- God calls us to have LIVING FAITH in Him, but our unbelief will not stop Him from fulfilling His promises.
Luke 1:18-23
- God shows His PERSONAL care to those who trust His promises.
Luke 1:24-25

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. What are some different reactions people have to disappointment and discouragement? What does your default reaction tend to be?
2. Read Luke 1:5-7. How is Elizabeth's experience especially painful in an ancient Israelite culture? What would people think? How was this reflective of Israel in general? (see Isa 49:21, 54:1)
3. Read Luke 1:8-17 and the last few verses of the Old Testament. How is God picking up right where the Old Testament leaves off?
4. Read Luke 1:18-23. How can unbelief be sneaky as it was in Zechariah's heart? What does it look like to have a real, vibrant, living faith, versus having a faith that's on cruise control?
5. In your life, what disappointments have you faced and how did you respond?
6. What does it look like to have a living, vibrant faith in your life right now with what you're facing?
7. What is the difference between discipline and punishment? Do you ever feel God is punishing you? What does the gospel tell us about this? (see Hebrews 12:5-11)
8. Read Luke 1:24-25. How is it encouraging to see how God cares personally for Elizabeth? In your life, how is God caring for you personally?

