

MAIN POINT

The account of Zechariah and Elizabeth reminds us that God is still working, even when we think He's done with us.

INTRODUCTION

What's one unexpected way God has worked in your life lately?

How do you react if you don't sense God working?

Many of us are planners and do not like change or surprises. God's work in our lives, though, can be startling and surprising. As God works in our lives we need to honor and praise Him, which includes praising Him even when we do not see Him working the way we expect.

DISCUSSION

> **READ JOHN 1:5-17.**

What characteristics of Zechariah and Elizabeth made them good candidates to be used by God?

Why was it unlikely for Elizabeth to conceive?

Why is it significant that Zechariah and Elizabeth remained faithful even though their prayers for a child had not been answered? How might they have responded differently?

What do you do when your prayers go unanswered? How is your relationship with God affected?

What emotions did Zechariah experience when Gabriel appeared?

Put yourself in the place of the two parents. What would you think and feel as you listened to the angel?

How did the angel say John's birth and life would affect his parents and others?

Why did John the Baptist's parents need to know the work John would do? (i.e. so they could guide him; so they could nurture the needed qualities in his life)

As a parent or a mentor to someone younger, how do you guide others to act righteously? How does this help them discover God's work?

Why is it important that we be near to God in order to observe how He is working, no matter what it seems on the surface?

APPLICATION

Where has it felt like God has stopped working in your life? How are you encouraged by today's passage?