

• **LESSON 2 (January 10)** •

Luke 1:39-80 • Mary's Song of Praise and Zechariah's Prophecy

1. When we read that Elizabeth was “filled with the Holy Spirit” (1:41), what are we being told?
2. “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?
3. What valuable insight are we given about Mary in Luke 1:45?
4. How would you summarize Mary's poetic praise in Luke 1:46-55? In your own words, what is she saying? How does the overall message relate to the upcoming birth of her son?
5. Why were Elizabeth and Zechariah so intent on naming their son John (1:57-66)?
6. We can only speculate, but why do you think John's tongue was immediately loosed once he wrote on the writing tablet, “His name is John” (1:63-64)?
7. Upon being given the ability to open his mouth again, Zechariah immediately blesses God (1:64). Why?
8. “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 be?’” (1:65-66). What might someone familiar with Old Testament history have thought of these incredible events?
9. Take your time with Zechariah's profound prophecy. What stands out to you in these phrases?
 - “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”