

Welcome to Worship with us! Please take a moment to fill out the **Communication Card** inside this guide and place it in the offering box. We're so glad you've decided to worship with us this this morning!

Nicaragua Mission Trip March 8-17, 2014 and the plan is to take a medical team and children's ministry team. If you're interested in going, see Billy. The cost of the trip is \$1500 and the first deposit of \$500 is due Dec. 8th.

2014 Vision Weekend will be December 8th. We will have 2 services on that day. Part 1 will be our 9:30am worship service, where I'll aim to lay out the big picture of the direction God is leading. Part 2 will be at 5:00pm. We'll have a meal and I'll unpack more of the nuts and bolts of how we'll accomplish what we believe God has planned for 2014.

Giving can be done in the box in the back of the room or online at www.encounterlifechurch.org/give. Thanks for faithfully giving and supporting the work God is doing through ELC!



Family Worship Guide

December 1, 2013

Need Something this week? Please call the Leadership Team:

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Jim Lemmons | 273-2532 | Billy Levengood | 224-8502 |
| Joel Littlefield | 273-9574 | Justin Stotts | 409-7013 |
| James West | 235-5432 | | |

Family Worship Night
Week of December 1, 2013

LUKE 1:57-80

INTRODUCTION¹

God was at work doing something very special, and all Elizabeth and Zechariah's neighbors knew it. They thought their neighbor Elizabeth was too old to have a baby, and yet God blessed her so she could. Zechariah couldn't talk or hear for 9 months after he saw the angel in the temple. But after the baby was born, and he wrote down his name, right away he could talk again, and he praised God. Everyone knew God was with the baby in a special way. Elizabeth and Mary praised God and now it was Zechariah's turn. God would be kind and loving toward his people and keep his promises, even though they didn't deserve it. That's called "mercy".

Zechariah sang about the promises God made long ago to Abraham—promises to save his people from their enemies so they could worship and serve him with their whole lives and not be afraid. He sang about his special baby, John, who will get God's people ready for their savior to come.

DISCUSSION: Why was John so important? What does it mean that God saves or redeems us? Why does he save us?

EXPLANATION

- What did Elizabeth's neighbors and relatives do when her baby was born? *They rejoiced with her.*
- What did Zechariah say when they asked him what the baby's name would be? *"His name is John."*
- Why did Elizabeth and Zechariah name their baby, John? *God told them to.*
- What's the first thing Zechariah does in his song? *He praises God.*
- What are some of the things Zechariah said God would do? *Visit and redeem his people, save them from their enemies, show them mercy, keep the promises he made long ago.*
- How were the people supposed to serve God? *With all their hearts, for all their lives.*

- Why does God save his people? *Because of his tender mercy.*
- What did he say John would do? *Go before the Lord to prepare his ways, teach people about salvation and forgiveness.*

APPLICATION

Once again, what God has promised, he will do. Zechariah was reminded of that the hard way. Sometimes God lets us go through difficult circumstances to remind us that he is good, and loving, and faithful, and that he keeps his promises to us. What John's birth shows more than anything is that the salvation God promised long ago was getting close. God can and will do what he promises in Jesus. But God doesn't just save us from our enemies and our sin; he saves us to serve and worship him with all our hearts, for all our lives. Talk with your children about some of the hard things God has allowed you to go through as an individual or as a family. How have those circumstances helped you trust God more? What idols were exposed and repented of? What are some of the other good things God has taught you in the hard places to make you more like Jesus? Spend some time talking about what God has saved you to—to glorify him in service and worship, and to display his mercy and grace. Read Ephesians 2:1-10 for more on this subject.

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 1:68 - "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people." (ESV)

Prayer Thought: Thank God for his loving mercy which brings salvation to all those who believe!

For more information on how to have a
Family Worship Night please visit,
www.encounterlifechurch.org/fwn/FWNPrepGuide.pdf

¹ Taken from:
http://cdn.marshall.com/files/collection/documents/luke_9097_document.pdf
page 3.