

Joy: Breaking the Silence Discussion Questions

Read Luke 1:5-17

1. In Lk1 the gospel writer picks up the Bible narrative where Malachi left off. What was the final promise that the Jews before Jesus were left with? (See Malachi 4:1-6.)

a. It had been hundreds of years since Malachi's prophecy and the people of Israel had been suffering under centuries of oppression. This apparent silence from God must have been difficult for them. Where does silence from the Lord feel the most deafening in your life right now? Where does it feel impossible to have joy?

2. How have you seen God break the silence in the past? What are some promises that he has answered in your life and some prayers that he has answered?

3. Where do you usually find your joy or what tends to make you joyful?

a. What kinds of things does the Bible teach us should be the basis of our joy?

b. Which of these biblical reasons for joy have you experienced or seen in your life?

4. As in the case of Zechariah and Elizabeth getting a child, or God sending the Messiah to Israel, it can sometimes take a really long time for God to fulfill his promises. What is a promise of God that you are struggling with trusting in because it is taking so long for God to fulfill it?

a. What can we do to help us not to give up?

b. How can we help one another not to give up?

5. God gives us joy so that we can share it. Who in your life needs to experience the Lord's joy? What can you do to share it with them?