



**Series:** God's Christmas Grace  
**Passage Luke 1:1-25**  
**Title:** God's Christmas Grace  
**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard – 12/13/2020

**Discussion Starter** – Pastor David taught that there are 365 references to the messiah in the Old Testament. Why is it important to know this? What does this say about God? Why do you think God provided the Old Testament books?

### **John the Baptist – Forerunner of Jesus**

- To whom does Luke address this book? What were the two possibilities provided by Pastor David for the identity of Theophilus? (verse 3)
- In verse 4, Luke writes, “that you know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed”. Pastor David listed a few of the “things in which you were instructed”. Name three. (examples may be found in Genesis 49:10, 2 Samuel 7:12, Micah 5:2)
- Isaiah predicted a forerunner to Jesus. Who was this person? What was the role of this forerunner according to the prophet Isaiah? What does the story of the birth of John the Baptist say about God's involvement with humanity?
- What is the identity of the angel that appeared to Zacharias? (See verse 19)

### **God Loves Prayer**

- What was Zacharias' role in the temple as described in verse 9? What does the burning of incense symbolize? (See Exodus 30:7-8)
- What prayer was God answering? Describe the character of Zacharias and Elizabeth? Why do you think God make them wait so long for this prayer to be answered?
- The announcement of the birth of John the Baptist is similar to others in the Old Testament (Genesis 16:10-11, Genesis 17:15-17, Genesis 18:10-15, Genesis 25:23, Judges 13:3-21). How long has it been since such an announcement has been made? Why is the announcement being made at this point in time, by a representative of God, significant?

### **Christmas Grace**

- What is common grace? (See Psalm 145:9)
- The angel made seven predictions about John the Baptist's life. What were they? (verses 14-17)
- What does the angel mean when he says that John the Baptist will, “turn the hearts of the fathers to the children”? (verse 17, see also Malachi 4:5-6)
- What was God's plan for John the Baptist (see the promises)? How should the promises made about John the Baptist influence your view of prosperity?