

Heaven meets Earth: *Messenger of God*

Overarching point: God speaks to us

Key Scripture: Luke 1:5-25 (NIV)

Key takeaway: Our story serves a far greater purpose within God's big story

Introduction:

- > Have you ever been given the silent treatment? Sometimes it feels like God is silent. It is very hard.
- > But, despite how it might feel at times, God speaks to us. He spoke to people thousands of years ago and is still speaking and moving in our day.

1. God speaks to us

- > In Luke 1, Zechariah and Elizabeth desperately wanted to have a baby. It's likely they would have prayed and asked God for a child, yet for years and years their prayers were not answered. After years of silence, an angel broke this silence with a message from God.
- > Even though there are times when it feels God is silent, God does still speak.

2. God speaks to us by all possible means

- > Illustration: Share about a time when God spoke to you in a way that was unusual or surprising.
- > There is no formula or prescription — God communicates with us in many ways.
- > God could have used any means to communicate this message to Zechariah but chose to send an angel — a representative of himself.
- > God can speak to us through many different means, even in ways that surprise us.

3. God speaks to us personally about our life story

- > God cares about the details of your life. God spoke to Zechariah personally, about something that was important and personal to him. There was more in this message than just an answer to a prayer.
- > Zechariah and Elizabeth's story was shaped by disappointment and years of painful longing — but their story served a purpose within God's grand story.
- > When God speaks to us, he speaks to us personally about our life story and how it fits with God's big story.

Conclusion

- > What God has in store for us is far bigger than we could possibly imagine.
- > God knows us individually and personally and speaks into our circumstances.

