

Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John the Baptist

Introduction:

Much of our advent focus centers on the Holy Family: Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. They are at the center of the manger scene, but there is another holy family, that helps us to understand the story of God. Elizabeth, a relative of Mary, her husband Zechariah, and their soon-to-be-born baby, John, are some of the first to realize the magnitude of the birth of Jesus. The baby that Elizabeth and Zechariah welcome into the world is one who will announce the coming of the Lord. John will grow up and speak the words from Isaiah 40, "prepare the way for the Lord."

In so many ways, we are called to be like Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John. Jesus is coming. Our job, like the second holy family, is to prepare the way, to announce his coming and to fill every corner of the world with the hope that comes with him.

Read Your Bible

- Isaiah 40:1-5
- Luke 1:8-17

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. Take time to read the full story of Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John found in Luke 1:5-80.
2. How does each person react to the announcement of the coming holy births of John and Jesus?
3. How do you think you would react?
4. In this special season, we are called to prepare for the coming of Jesus. How are you preparing your home to welcome him?
5. How are you preparing your heart to welcome him?
6. Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John, each announced the coming of Jesus in important ways. How did each one do it?
7. How will you announce the coming of Jesus this Christmas season?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Father in Heaven, this advent season you promise us the holy gift of your Son. Prepare our hearts to receive him and our lives to know him. Give us your Spirit, so that our voices might announce the coming of the Lord. In His holy name we pray. Amen.