

Fear Not, Zechariah
Luke 1:67-80
December 6, 2020

The “Do Not Fear” Statements of Christmas (Luke 1:5-13, Luke 1:30, Matthew 1:20, Luke 2:10)

I. Three Reasons the Message of Christmas Takes Away Fear

A. The message of Christmas takes away fear because God hears our prayer (Luke 1:13).

B. The message of Christmas takes away fear because God visits us (Luke 1:68, 78).

C. The message of Christmas takes away fear because God has redeemed us! He has saved us! (Luke 1:68,69,71,74,77).

II. Three Right Responses to the Message of Christmas

God takes away our fear, and in response:

A. We serve Him (Luke 1:74).

B. We walk in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life (Luke 1:74-75).

C. We give the knowledge of salvation (Luke 1:77) and light to those in darkness (Luke 1:79).

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read Luke 1:5-13, 67-80
2. This text tells us three things about God: He hears our prayer (V. 13), He visits us (V. 68, 78), and He redeems us (V. 68-69, 71, 74, 77)? Which of these three things is the most meaningful to you? Why?
3. The text tells us three right responses we have: we serve Him (V. 74), we walk in holiness and righteousness (V. 74-75), and we give light to those in darkness by giving the knowledge of salvation of the forgiveness of sin (V. 77, 79). Which of these 3 points do you find most pressing today? Why?
4. Going forward, what do you think is your personal role in taking the light of the gospel to those who are in darkness?
5. Read James 4:8.
6. What must we do to heighten our awareness of God's presence? What obstacles do we face that hinder our opportunity to draw near to God?
7. Pray for each other, that you would all have the right response to the message of Christmas this year. Review the Prayer Guide about prayer needs throughout the congregation.

Church Bible Reading Plan

Bible Reading Plan: Luke 1-2

December Memory Verses: Matthew 1:20-21

1 John 5:14

And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.

Our Vision: To create a culture of discipleship that leads to worship and compels us to be on mission.

PRAY for us as a church family to grow in our devotion and our discipleship.
 PRAY that we would be faithful in all our individual areas of ministry.
 PRAY that God will draw many to Himself in this difficult time.
 PRAY for YOUR ONE to be saved.
 PRAY for Grief Share
 PRAY for the ASU West college ministry.
 PRAY for the Wednesday evening AWANA ministry and the need for Awana nursery helpers.
 PRAY for the people of Puluk in Indonesia to have the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel.
 PRAY for Dr. Doug and Cheryl D. to be able to return to their field of service soon.
 PRAY for our follow up with the kids and parents who made decisions at the Family Revival Night.

Our Mission: To Care as Jesus CARES:

PRAY for God's protection from the COVID virus.
 PRAY that we will love and encourage each other by reaching out to our membership.
 PRAY that God will continue to use the FOOD BOX MINISTRY to bring people to Himself and that we will keep the food pantry stocked.
 PRAY for the hospital workers, first responders and police officers to be drawn to God and to be filled with His strength, love, and ability.
 PRAY for all our schools/teachers/administrators/workers and parents in this school year with difficulties never before encountered.
 PRAY for us all to be a source of light in the darkness of racial prejudice.
 PRAY for our country and for us to be godly citizens.
 PRAY that we will each be faithful to give financially to Apollo Baptist Church so that we can have the funds to continue ministering.
 PRAY for the effectiveness of Operation Christmas Child.
 PRAY for the upcoming Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Our Church Family:

PRAY for Pastor Gary and our other pastors (Pastor Jim, Pastor Reginald, Pastor Brian) as they seek God's way to lead our church.
 PRAY for our intern, Juliana S., and her ministry to children and college students.
 PRAY for our deacons to be able to keep up with their families and contacts effectively.
 PRAY for additional preschool volunteers to care for children once a month during the morning worship service.

Pray For Our Church Family Needs:

- Those struggling with fear and anxiety because of the pandemic
- Church members and/or their families who have COVID
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones
 - Rebecca R. (brother), Ray and Sue J. (daughter-in-law, Lynette), Dan and Shirley S. (Dan's father), Nancy C. (father, Pete), April H. (husband, Gary), Ken R. (sister, Joan), Darlene R. (aunt, Peggy), Randie A. and Bonnie V. (mother), Tim, Alexa, and Erika P. (grandfather)
 - Grief Share participants
- Those struggling with cancer issues:
 - Mary C. (breast cancer), Brenda R. (blood cancer and possible donors of bone marrow), Leroy D. (his brother), Ketty B's. grandmother (breast cancer), Wanda H. (son, Derek), Chris and Beth L. (3 yr. old daughter with inoperable brain tumor)
- Those struggling with chronic health issues:
 - Michelle L. (migraines, although improving), Rezwana D. (migraines), Mary R. (possibly starting dialysis), Ruthie C. (severe weight loss), Jimmy (grandson of Raul and Cindy O. has autism and migraines), Larry D. (brain bleed not completely healed), Don R. (sciatica pain), Wayne and Twyla D. (Parkinsons), Floyd W. (Pat's dementia), Elaine D. (medication issues), Gretchen E. (father in hospital with shingles and cellulitis), Peggy T. (neurological evaluation related to recent TIA)
- Those awaiting surgery:
 - Brenda R. (bone marrow transplant), James M. (cleaning out the veins in his legs), Dale O. (knee replacement)
- Those recovering from surgery:
 - Jonathan B. (hand surgery), Laura M. (vertebrae surgery and right arm movement)
- Those struggling with family relational issues:
 - Julia B. (family), Ketty B. (friend), Marge D. (a son)
- Those needing employment:
 - Larry S., Billy H.
- Others that you are aware of