

Grow in confidence – with Luke's Gospel

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

3^d Meeting **THEME: The cure of cynicism**

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. At home read Luke 1:57-80. If you want to do more, you can also read another time Luke 1:5:25.

20.00 – 20.10 Start Have you ever experienced feelings of disappointment towards God? When/about what?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray Ask God to work through His word and Spirit tonight.

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage **Read: Luke 1:57 - 80**

Look again at verses 57-66 Zechariah unmuted

- What strikes you in this passage?
- Look at what Gabriel had announced to Zechariah (1:13-20). Which things have now been fulfilled?
- Initially Zechariah had responded with a cynic question to the promise. He seems to be changed now. What may have changed him?

Look again at verses 67-75 Zechariah prophesies about Jesus

- The focus of Zechariah's song is first on Mary's child, not on his own child. Why?
- We could understand these verses as singing about 'a new Exodus'. Do you see how?

Look again at verses 76-80 Zechariah prophesies about John

- What, according to these verses, will be the role of John and what will be the role of Jesus?
- Somehow the redemption Zechariah sung about was not yet visible. However, Zechariah sings about it as a present reality. What can we learn from that?

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper: cynicism dealt with

The reason Theophilus (and we) should come to know about Zechariah's initial cynicism is probably that a) Theophilus (and we) should get certainty that God can deal with that and b) that Theophilus (and we) can be filled with the Spirit, so that others get confidence. Take some minutes of silence to think how this relates to your life and current situation.

20.50 – 21.00 End Share what came to your mind and take enough time to pray for each other.