

WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

ELIZABETH

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

LESSON 1

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's **Overview** has been helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read Luke 1:5-17

For background: Between the end of the Old Testament and the events in the New Testament, there had been no spokesperson from God (i.e., prophet) to the nation of Israel. Amid this silent period from God, we meet our first New Testament woman, Elizabeth.

2. According to **V5-7**, who are Zechariah and Elizabeth, and how are they described?

3. a) What were Zechariah and the assembled worshipers doing in **V8-10**?

- b) List some details that strike you in the way God answered Zechariah's prayer from **V11-13**.

4. Getting in the shoes of this mother-to-be, what in the angel's prophecy would have warmed her heart?

V14 _____

V15 _____

V16 _____

V17 _____

5. Comment on how Elizabeth and Zechariah would have been ready to receive the great blessing of parenting this unique son in light of **V6** and **V13**.

6. Share about a time when you've seen God's blessing in an area of your life that required long, steady obedience.

SECTION II: Read Luke 1:18-25

7. According to **V18-20**, why was Zechariah given a consequence, and what was his consequence?

8. In your own words, summarize what happened in **V21-23**.
9. a) In **V24**, why do you think Elizabeth remained in seclusion for 5 months after she became pregnant?
b) Zechariah experienced a verbal seclusion (unable to speak) while Elizabeth experienced a physical seclusion. How might God have been preparing each of them uniquely for what was to come?
10. What type(s) of “seclusion” do you feel would help or prepare you?
11. To whom and for what does Elizabeth credit her pregnancy? (**V25**)
12. Read **V26-38** with special attention to **V36-37**. Consider Elizabeth’s ongoing obedience in spite of her feelings of “disgrace.” For what impossible, barren, or “disgraceful” situation does she inspire you to remain obedient?

SECTION III: Read Luke 1:39-80

13. a) What happened to Elizabeth in **V39-41**?
14. As a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit, what insight has Elizabeth gained about:
Mary? (**V42**)
Mary’s Child? (**V42**)
Elizabeth herself? (**V43**)
15. What did Elizabeth and John (though only a baby in her womb) both know and why? (See **V15b**, **V41b** and **V44**.)
16. As you read the events in **V56-63**, how does Elizabeth handle the situation?

17. According to **V64-66**, how did Zechariah and others respond?

18. As a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit, Zechariah bursts into prophetic praise. From **V67-80**, which verse do you love and why?

19. John, Elizabeth, and Zechariah were filled with the Holy Spirit. What do the following verses say about how someone today has the Holy Spirit living within them?

Ephesians 1:13-14 _____

Galatians 3:1-2 _____

Romans 8:15-16 _____

20. What “good” character trait of Elizabeth’s will you remember and why?

21. Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to empower you to grow in obedience in a certain area of your life.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Link **Ephesians 1:17** with what you observed about the Holy Spirit in the **Luke 1** main characters.
2. We read about John and his parents being filled with the Holy Spirit. What more do you discover about the Holy Spirit in the following verses?

Zechariah 4:6 _____

Mark 13:9-11 _____

John 16:13-15 _____

Acts 1:8 _____

Romans 8:26-27 _____

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 _____
3. We are amazed at Who the Holy Spirit is and more amazed He lives in us who believe. Share a recent time when you were reminded of the Holy Spirit living/working within you.

4. Suggested Memory Verse: **Luke 1:45**

