



UNEXPECTED | THE UNEXPECTED PROMISE | LUKE 1:5-25; 67-80

In the quiet routines of an aged, forgotten couple, God breaks centuries of silence with an unexpected promise—one that moves forward despite Zechariah’s doubt and turns his eventual restored voice into overflowing praise. Their story reminds us that even when God seems distant, His power is still present, His timing is perfect, and His redemptive plan always includes ordinary people who are ready to believe and fulfill their purpose.

## SERMON NOTES:

Main points, questions or things that stuck out to you.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

## FURTHER STUDY:

### Cross References, Resources, etc.

- Isaiah 54:1; Luke 1:26–38; James 1:6–8; Isaiah 40:1–5; Isaiah 9:2

# SMALL GROUP NOTES

## GROUND RULES

What's said in a group stays in the group.

Encourage others and hold yourself accountable.

Where is it written in the Bible?

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- What does the way God chooses to begin His redemptive work—through an elderly, barren couple in ordinary circumstances—reveal about His character and the nature of His kingdom?

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- How does Zechariah's silence show the impact of unbelief on our ability to serve and speak for God?

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- What does Zechariah's Spirit-filled prophecy teach us about God's faithfulness to His covenant promises and the role John the Baptist will play in preparing the way for the Messiah?

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### WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

- Where might I be underestimating God's ability to work in the ordinary or "unlikely" areas of my life?

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- Is there a prayer I've prayed for so long that I've stopped believing God could still answer it?

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- Where has unbelief—fear, discouragement, or disappointment—silenced my spiritual voice or weakened my testimony?

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- How can I respond with praise and renewed purpose when I see God fulfilling His word in my life or in others' lives?

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Read Ahead: Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:1-7