

**Deane Parish Church Home Groups  
w/b Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Luke 1:1-25 A Surprise!**

How do you get ready for Christmas?

*Advent Sunday marks the beginning of the Church getting ready for Christmas. Our readings show us how God was getting the world ready for Jesus' birth.*

**Read Luke 1:1-4**

What do these verses tell us about Luke's gospel? E.g. the way he did it, his motivation for writing.

Why is that important for us today as we look at these words?

**Read Luke 1:5-25**

**vv5-10**

Describe Zechariah and Elizabeth in your own words

What effect would childlessness have had on them, especially in the Jewish culture? (see v.25)

Can you think of any other childless couples who conceive in later life?

What do you think God is showing when he does this kind of miracle?

**vv11-17**

Why will Zechariah's son be so significant?

The Bible does not teach reincarnation, so what does it mean that John will be in the "spirit and power of Elijah"? Read Malachi 4:5-6 to help.

*Do you think there is anything significant about the location of these verses in the Bible?* Look also at Malachi 3:1.

**vv18-25**

How do you think the event in the Temple changed Zechariah?

What do we learn about God's promises? (v20)

How do we see God working out his plan for an individual family, and for the whole world?

What does these verses teach us about our disappointments and God's plan?