

November 30-December 1, 2024

**Title: Prince of Peace, Pt 1: “Impossible Certainty” – Luke 1:1-25**

Big Idea: Be certain that God will do the impossible to accomplish His purposes and will help us believe the impossible when we doubt!

Read Luke 1:1-25.

What in the message stood out to you?

What questions do you have?

1. Be CERTAIN of the things taught in the Bible!

Read Luke 1:1-4. The Greek word for “certainty” in verse 4 carries the idea of “firm, stable, certain, undoubted truth, secure, safe.” Do you think we can be certain the Bible is true? Why or why not?

In what ways is certainty important or unimportant to daily life? What effect does uncertainty tend to have on us?

Luke gives three reasons he thinks we can be certain. The first is fulfilled prophecy (“...the things that have been accomplished among us...” 1:1). The second reason is historical evidence (“...just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses...” 1:2). The third is that it is verifiable (“...having followed all things closely...to write an orderly account...” 1:3). Which of these helps you the most and why?

2. Some disappointments feel impossible.

Read Luke 1:5-7. Zechariah and Elizabeth had the massive disappointment of not being able to have children and now they were too old. What has been your biggest disappointment in life? Did it cause you to doubt a promise of God or a part of God’s word? Why or why not?

Has God promised us a challenge-free life, exempt from heartaches, or that every desire will be granted? If not, what has He promised us?

How common a problem do you think unbelief is among Christians? What kinds of things have helped you in your battle against unbelief?

3. God promises to do the impossible to accomplish His purposes!

Read Luke 1:8-17. What are some things you observe from the angel’s words to Zechariah? What do you find most interesting or encouraging?

Luke 1:17 quotes from Malachi 4:5-6, which are the last two verses of the Old Testament written 400 years earlier. Why should it encourage us to know that the answer to Zechariah's prayer for a child was to fulfill a prophecy given 400 years earlier?

Have you ever had to wait a long time for God to fulfill a promise in His word? Did you find it difficult to wait? What was difficult and what was helpful to you?

4. God helps us believe the impossible when we doubt.

Read Luke 1:18-25. Why do you think Zechariah doubted the words of an angel?

In response to Zechariah's doubts, God disciplined him to help him trust Him more, but still kept His promises to Him. What can you learn about God from this? How does this encourage you?

Read the story of a father with a demon-possessed son in Mark 9:20-27. What is your reaction to the prayer "I believe; help my unbelief!" in verse 24? Why should this be a common prayer for all of us?

"Next Step" Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

- With God:
  - Start keeping a prayer journal. In your first entry, bring your disappointments and impossible requests to God and confess your doubts.
  - Ask God to help you be certain that He will do the impossible to accomplish His purposes.
- With Others:
  - Share your "with God" journal entry with a close friend or family member and pray together about it.
- On Mission:
  - Ask an unbeliever in your life to share some of the reasons they don't believe. Ask them if they would be willing to read and discuss the Gospel of Luke with you.