**CHOOSE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS**

Week 1

**PARENT BIBLE STUDY**

**Read: Luke 1:5-25, 57-80**Zechariah was so convinced that he would never have children that even an angel appearing to him couldn’t persuade him otherwise. Even as he was standing in the presence of God, he couldn’t hear the truth. Zechariah was in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a priest like himself: to burn incense to God, not just inside the temple, but inside the most sacred place in the temple, the Holy of Holies. It was an amazing moment. And he missed it.

We don’t know much about Zechariah and Elizabeth except that they were faithful, obedient, and childless, despite their constant prayer for a baby. But when the Angel Gabriel told Zechariah he and his barren wife would have a son, he didn’t believe it. Even when the angel said their son would be set apart for something sacred, to prepare the hearts of the people for Jesus the Messiah, Zechariah didn’t believe it. That was the extent of his hopelessness.

We can relate, right? We all have things in our lives that seem so impossible that even if an angel stepped into our kitchen and told us differently, we would struggle to believe it.

Sometimes God seems just that far away. But here is the amazing truth in this story. John’s message would announce that God wasn’t far away at all. In fact, he was coming soon, closer than he’d ever been before, because his son, Jesus, was coming as a human to spend time on earth.

It took months of silence for this truth to become real to Zechariah. And when his mouth opened again, Zechariah’s words overflowed with a song of praise for God’s mercy and faithfulness.

Zechariah’s story is our story, too. No matter the impossibilities of what we face, God is near. Through Jesus, we can be reconnected to God—closer than ever before. He is with us. It’s the hope of the world. Don’t miss it.

**How do you relate to Zechariah?**

**What feels impossible in your life right now? How does this story give you hope?**