

- ## PRAYER

WORD

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth . . .” LUKE 1:11-14

WHAT

Zechariah received a promise from God at an unlikely time. His wife Elizabeth was barren and they were both very old. But through the angel Gabriel, Zechariah received a word from God—the promise of a son. In this lesson, we will learn how and understand why we can receive blessing through God’s Word despite lost opportunity.

1 God’s Word is encouraging.

But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.” LUKE 1:13

Zechariah received the encouraging assurance that his prayers were not wasted from Gabriel. In the same way, when we read God’s Word, we will know and understand the many promises of God that reveal His goodness and care for us. The regular reading and hearing of God’s Word boosts our faith. Share an example of how God’s Word has encouraged you.

2 God’s Word gives hope.

“Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God.”
LUKE 1:16

God’s promise brought hope not only to Zechariah, but to the nation of Israel as well. It must have been more exciting for Zechariah to know the huge role of his son in this promise. This same promise of great hope is given to every believer because of Jesus’ victory on the cross. What passages in Scripture speak of hope for God’s children?

3 God’s Word is dependable.

⁵⁷When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy. LUKE 1:57,58

Zechariah and Elizabeth received God’s promise for them when John was born. This proved that God’s Word for them was dependable. Today, God’s Word for us remains dependable regardless of any season, location, or situation. How does the dependability of God’s Word affect the way you live?
