#### **SO WHAT**

- Read Psalm 23. What part of this psalm do you find most encouraging? Why?
- In what other way is the Word of God dependable, according to Matthew 7:24,25?
- What promise in God's Word encourages you?
  What promise in God's Word gives you hope?

#### **NOW WHAT**

- Do you look to God's Word for hope and encouragement? In what area of your life do you need hope and encouragement? What promise can you claim for your life today?
- Share a personal testimony of how God has given you hope and proven Himself dependable.
- How can you be an encouragement to others this week?

### **PRAYER**

- Thank God for His faithfulness in your life. Pray that you would continue to grow in faith and learn to depend on His Word.
- Pray that you and others in your Victory group would see that there is always hope in every situation.
- Ask God to help you become a person who always speaks words of encouragement.



# **Despite Lost Opportunity**



NOTES		

## CONNECT

- Who is the most encouraging person you know? How does s/he encourage you?
- What is one thing you are looking forward to in the future?
- Do you consider yourself dependable? Why do you say so?





<sup>11</sup>Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>He 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	•
		6			

"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

Zechariah to same promi of Jesus' vio	of Israel as well. It must have been more exciting for o know the huge role of his son in this promise. This ise of great hope is given to every believer because ctory on the cross. What passages in Scripture speak God's children?
	rd is dependable.
a son. 58Hei	ras time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to r neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown ercy, and they shared her joy. LUKE 1:57,58
when John was depend regardless o	and Elizabeth received God's promise for them was born. This proved that God's Word for them dable. Today, God's Word for us remains dependable of any season, location, or situation. How does dability of God's Word affect the way you live?