



## “Elizabeth: *The Friend*”

Series: Five Christmases  
December 7 & 8, 2019

<sup>5</sup> When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. <sup>6</sup> Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God’s eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord’s commandments and regulations. (Luke 1:5-6, NLT)

**FAITH:** “FAITH IS THE ASSURANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE CONVICTION OF THINGS NOT SEEN.” HEBREWS 11:1

### **THREE THINGS WE LEARN FROM ELIZABETH:**

#### **1. Find PEACE in God’s PROMISES.**

<sup>19</sup> Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! <sup>20</sup> But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.”

#### **2. Choose FAITH over PHYSICAL**

<sup>23</sup> When Zechariah’s week of service in the Temple was over, he returned home. <sup>24</sup> Soon afterward his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant and went into seclusion for five months. <sup>25</sup> “How kind the Lord is!” she exclaimed. “He has taken away my disgrace of having no children.”

<sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.”

#### **3. Remain STEADFAST**

<sup>59</sup> When the baby was eight days old, they all came for the circumcision ceremony. They wanted to name him Zechariah, after his father. <sup>60</sup> But Elizabeth said, “No! His name is John!”

<sup>80</sup> And the child grew and became strong in spirit<sup>[d]</sup>; and he lived in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.”

### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION**

1. What did the Lord reveal to you through Elizabeth’s story. How did her reaction to God’s selection of her and her husband Zechariah affect you? How did her reaction differ from Zechariah’s reaction? What was the result?
2. Do you carry shame from your past? How does God’s work in Elizabeth’s life to remove her shame? How does God work in our lives to remove our shame? What is Jesus’ part in removing our shame?
3. Consider a time God may have selected you to complete a task that was challenging for you to complete. How did you feel (inadequate, ill-equipped, or like turning away)? What was the result?
4. Is God calling you to a specific role today where He is growing your faith and possibly the faith of those around you?

Notes and recordings of these messages can be found on: [NHCOHawaii.org](http://NHCOHawaii.org)