

ENCOUNTERS WITH

Immanuel

Group Guide: Week 3

CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- What was the most generous present you ever received?
- What made that present so special to you?

READ & DISCUSS UNDERSTAND & APPLY THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING

This week, as we continue our Encounters with Immanuel series, we'll be reading about a man named Zechariah and his encounter with God. Even though his story ends in blessing, Zechariah originally responds to God's promise with disbelief. Because of this, he's denied the joy of announcing that blessing to those around him. Like He came to Zechariah, God comes to each of us with remarkable promises and blessings. Like Zechariah, *God wants to give something to us and through us, but it requires faith of us.*

READ	DISCUSS
Luke 1:5-25	Zechariah responds to God's generosity with skepticism. Often we, like Zechariah, doubt that God can and will do what he promises. Like Zechariah, our doubt robs us of our joy and our testimony. When are you most tempted to disbelieve God?
Luke 1:57-66	In spite of Zechariah's doubt, God still not only blesses him, but uses him to bring a blessing to those around him. Zechariah's son will be John the Baptist, who will announce the arrival of Jesus. God wants to bless you so that He can bless others through you. Do you believe that God has a plan of blessing for you? What gifts does God want to give you? How can you approach those gifts with faith?
Luke 1:67-79	The result of God's mercy is that Zechariah is filled with God's Spirit and begins to speak God's truth to those around him. What gifts has God given you? Who you can you tell about those gifts? Who might God want to bless with the blessings he's given you?

PRAY RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

Read Luke 1:68-79 out loud together. Then take a few moments and silently meditate on God's faithfulness to you and to His people, and the way He has "guided us into the way of peace." Thank God that he is a God of peace and blessing!

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?