

# Unexpected Answer: *Unexpected Christmas*

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Sermon Discussion Guide for the week of Dec 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Primary Scriptures: **Luke 1:5-27**

## Relationships

*As you begin the study portion of your gathering ask one (or more) of these questions to help your group focus their attention.*

If you had the choice of knowing what you were getting for Christmas, would you want to know? Why?

At what age do you think most people make the transition from being focused on receiving to being focused on giving at Christmas?

## Scripture

**Have a volunteer read Luke 1: 5-27**

How many years are there between the end of the Old Testament and Luke Chapter 1?

What do you think God was doing in that silence?

What is the difference between silence and absence? How do we know God is still present when He is silent?

Why do you think Zechariah and Elizabeth were still faithful after 400 years of silence?

What do you think the Jewish people felt about the temple system?

Do you think you would still be following the laws of God if it seemed He was silent for 400 years? Why or why not?

For some perspective. The United States is less than 300 years old. How connected do you think we are to the American Founding Fathers?

How much of what the Americans of the 1700's valued still exists in today's culture?

Why do you think that is?

How does the fact that God has moments in your life planned from the beginning of time make you feel?

How can you keep hope alive when you are waiting for those moments?

**Mission**

How would you respond to someone who says they feel God is answering other people's prayers, but is silent to theirs?

What about someone who says that they stopped believing because God hasn't answered their prayers?

**Development**

When has God seemed silent to you?

Have you ever asked...God, where are you? How did you deal with that feeling?

What should we do when it seems like God is silent?

**Pray**