

## Church at Home Pack – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Join us in church for our 10:30am service on Sunday or watch live at home on

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/service-type/sunday-service-online/>

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

**In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.**

*Our verse for the year is the same as last year's verse as we think about the difference being with Jesus makes to our lives*

**When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.**

*Acts 4:13*

### **GATHER TOGETHER**

#### ***A prayer to start –***

Come to us today, God of our waiting:

come to us with light.

Speak to us today, God of our journeying:

Speak to us your truth.

Dwell with us, God of our longing:

dwell with us in love.

**Amen**

#### **Action reminder –**

From the top of my head

*(Touch head)*

to the tips of my toes;

*(Touch toes)*

from the lobes of my ears

*(Touch ear lobes)*

to the end of my nose;

*(Touch nose)*

from my back, to my front

*(Turn round)*

to my wiggly fingers,

*(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)*

God loves me!

*(jump up and down)*

## READ TOGETHER

Luke 1: 5-25



### International Children's Bible (ICB)

<sup>5</sup> During the time Herod ruled Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah. He belonged to Abijah's group. Zechariah's wife came from the family of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> Zechariah and Elizabeth truly did what God said was good. They did everything the Lord commanded and told people to do. They were without fault in keeping his law. <sup>7</sup> But Zechariah and Elizabeth had no children. Elizabeth could not have a baby; and both of them were very old.

<sup>8</sup> Zechariah was serving as a priest before God for his group. It was his group's time to serve. <sup>9</sup> According to the custom of the priests, he was chosen to go into the Temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup> There were a great many people outside praying at the time the incense was offered.

<sup>11</sup> Then, on the right side of the incense table, an angel of the Lord came and stood before Zechariah. <sup>12</sup> When he saw the angel, Zechariah was confused and frightened. <sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Zechariah, don't be afraid. Your prayer has been heard by God. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to a son. You will name him John. <sup>14</sup> You will be very happy. Many people will be happy because of his birth. <sup>15</sup> John will be a great man for the Lord. He will never drink wine or beer. Even at the time John is born, he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup> He will help many people of Israel return to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> He himself will go first before the Lord. John will be powerful in spirit like Elijah. He will make peace between fathers and their children. He will bring those who are not obeying God back to the right way of thinking. He will make people ready for the coming of the Lord."



<sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that what you say is true? I am an old man, and my wife is old, too."

<sup>19</sup> The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand before God. God sent me to talk to you and to tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup> Now, listen! You will not be able to talk until the day these things happen. You will lose your speech because you did not believe what I told you. But these things will really happen."



<sup>21</sup> Outside, the people were still waiting for Zechariah. They were surprised that he was staying so long in the Temple. <sup>22</sup> Then Zechariah came outside, but he could not speak to them. So they knew that he had seen a vision in the Temple. Zechariah could not speak. He could only make signs to them. <sup>23</sup> When his time of service as a priest was finished, he went home.

<sup>24</sup> Later, Zechariah's wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant. She did not go out of her house for five months. Elizabeth said, <sup>25</sup> "Look what the Lord has done for me! My people were ashamed of me, but now the Lord has taken away that shame."

## New International Version (NIV)

<sup>5</sup>In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. <sup>7</sup>But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.



<sup>8</sup>Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup>And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

<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 call him John. <sup>14</sup>He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. <sup>16</sup>He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

<sup>18</sup>Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

<sup>19</sup>The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup>And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

<sup>21</sup>Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. <sup>22</sup>When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

<sup>23</sup>When his time of service was completed, he returned home. <sup>24</sup>After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. <sup>25</sup>"The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favour and taken away my disgrace among the people."



## WATCH TOGETHER



*Zechariah and Elizabeth* – Faith Kids Videos: <https://youtu.be/zFH0liI6Vf0>



*Gospel of Luke 1: 5-25* – Lumo: [https://youtu.be/O0AoA4qY7\\_8](https://youtu.be/O0AoA4qY7_8)

## TALK TOGETHER

- Have you ever had to wait a really long time for something? How did you feel as you waited?

## STUDY TOGETHER – *Read Luke 1: 5-25*

- Read verses 5 – 7 and think about Zechariah and Elizabeth. Who are they and what is their life like?
- Verse 7 tells us that they were childless and very old. Why do you think that not having a child in their society was a problem for them?

Like all priests, except the chief priests, who lived in Jerusalem itself, Zechariah would come into the city, when it was the turn of his division to be on duty in the temple. He would stay in lodgings and then return home to continue his normal work as a teacher and leader in the local community.

- Zechariah was chosen by 'lot' to go into the temple. Do you think that it was 'just chance' that he was chosen at this time?
- During the encounter with the angel, how does Zechariah show both faith and doubt?

Zechariah and Elizabeth are an ordinary husband and wife receiving an extraordinary message and responding in mixed ways.

- What does their story tell us about how God works?

If you read on further into Luke you will see that God's timing here was part of a much bigger plan. Keith told us in his 'Sermon Snippets' that sometimes we are called to play our part in God's incredible plan by following His direction. That means listening, expecting and then acting just like Zechariah.

- How can we listen, expect and act like Zechariah in our daily lives?

## PLAY TOGETHER

### *Wait a minute!?*

**Zechariah's story involved a lot of waiting. He waited a long time for God's promise to be fulfilled.**

**How good are you at waiting?**



Can you time a minute in your head? Play this in a group or with your family. One person has a watch or a timer, when they say 'go' everyone else has to quietly time a minute in their heads. When they think that a minute is up, they put their hand in the air. Once everyone's hands are in the air, the person with the timer can announce the winner! Who will be the most accurate?! You might like to play it with shorter and longer times too.

When Zechariah lost his voice, he could only speak through signs or by writing things down.

Play a game of **Charades** or **Pictionary** together and think about what it must have been like for him and his family!

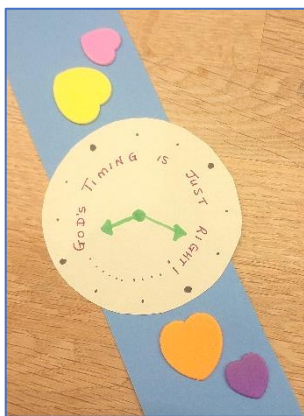


See the **Do Together** section for another idea on this theme...

## MAKE TOGETHER

### 'God's timing is just right!'

Zechariah and Elizabeth had to wait for a long time. Not just minutes or hours but years! But they knew that they could trust God and that his timing is just right. Make a reminder of that truth for yourself.



#### Paper/Card Watch

You can make a fun paper watch very simply from a strip and a circle of paper – decorated and glued together.

← A bit like this one.

Or you could even use a strip of cardboard tube from a toilet or kitchen roll for a sturdier strap! Decorate them with pens, pencils, stickers – whatever you have. If you have any split pins, you could even add moveable hands!



Here's a video to show you how to fold a paper watch. You can not only add the watch face but **decorate the strap with the words 'God's timing is just right!'** – <https://youtu.be/m8X7oFRaZyk>

#### Calendar

Make a calendar using a free printable template like these:

<http://www.12monthholidays.com/printable-2022-calendar-template.html>

Add your own design to the top and include the words 'God's timing is just right!'

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If you aren't able to print out a calendar – make a sign to stick above a clock or calendar in your house.

## SING TOGETHER

*While I wait* – Lincoln Brewster/ Music Meets Heaven: <https://youtu.be/NswPPVgMaPE>

*Promises* – Crossroads Kids: <https://youtu.be/yY3EogFlkCY>

*I will stand on every promise* – Keith Getty and Stuart Townend: <https://youtu.be/Sin3prv-tIU>

*Trust in you* – Lauren Daigle: [https://youtu.be/qv-SXz\\_exKE](https://youtu.be/qv-SXz_exKE)

## REFLECT TOGETHER

If you have a ticking clock or a watch with moving hands, sit and watch it as you reflect on these questions:

- Is there something you have been longing for?
- Is there a problem or a sadness in your life that you are waiting for an answer to?

If you don't have a clock with moving hands you might like to play this video whilst you reflect:

<https://youtu.be/ytbgtYLLi3o>



### **God Time**

For God:

1000 years = 1 day

1 day = 1000 years **(2 Peter 3:8)**

Take Moses. God chose him as a great leader – but not until he was eighty!

Or what about Abraham? God gave him a baby – but not until he was one hundred!

Or Jairus's daughter. Everyone wanted Jesus to rush, hurry, quick heal her before she died – but Jesus stopped to heal an old lady.

'You're too late!' everyone told Jesus. But remember God Time?

Jesus' delay saved an old lady. And meant he didn't just heal the little girl – he raised her from the dead!

Does it seem like God has forgotten about you?

God's answer may not come when we want and may not be what we want, but can we keep trusting that he is with us?

## PRAY TOGETHER



### ***Pray while you wait...***

Next time you have to wait.... In a queue, for a kettle to boil, or a computer to boot up, use the time to pray for someone you know who is waiting for an answer from God.

How might you introduce prayerful waiting into your everyday life?

Lord, you are the giver of each moment and each day,  
and you give us the opportunity to wait for the right time  
in which to discover more fully who you are, who we are,  
and how to receive you more deeply into our hearts.

So we thank you for the waiting time.

May it enrich, inspire and grace our lives  
with wisdom, compassion and joy, today and always.

**Amen.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for those who wait.  
We pray for those waiting beside hospital beds;  
for those waiting for justice;  
for those waiting for prison doors to open;  
for those waiting for an end to war;  
for those waiting for food;  
for those waiting for loved ones to come home again;  
for those waiting for someone to knock on their door.  
We wait with them,  
in our prayers and in your name,  
we wait with them.

**Amen.**

## DO TOGETHER

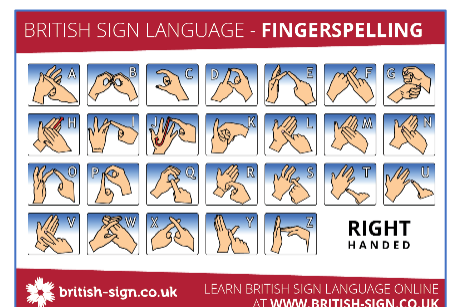
*Zechariah could not speak from the time he left the temple until his son was born... think about what that must have been like.*

### ***Learn some British Sign Language (BSL)***

Sign Language doesn't need a voice. Have a look at the BSL Fingerspelling Alphabets here:

<https://www.british-sign.co.uk/fingerspelling-alphabet-charts/>

and see if you can learn to sign your own name!





This week, notice the waiting. Whether its waiting for an important answer, test results or just waiting in a traffic jam, notice the waiting. How do you wait? Do you wait like Zechariah? Is your waiting honouring God? If not, think about how you can wait well.

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*Action Reminder, 'Pray while you wait' idea and other prayers taken and adapted from  
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Some Study Together Questions taken and adapted from Luke for Everyone by Tom Wright  
Wait a Minute Game taken and adapted from Urban Saints [www.energize.net](http://www.energize.net)  
'God Time' taken and adapted from 'Thoughts to make your heart sing' by Sally Lloyd-jones and Jago*