2023 CHRISTMAS (I)

**THE BIRTH OF JOHN FORETOLD**

(Luke 1:5-25)

**Open it:**

1. What experiences of complete surprise have you recently had?

**Explore it:**

1. Read verses 5-7. What characteristics did Zechariah and Elizabeth have in common? How well did Zechariah and Elizabeth handle the frustration of childlessness? (6,13,25)
2. Read verses 8-13. For what duty did Lot choose Zechariah? (8-10; Lev. 6:12-13) What was the angel’s message to Zechariah? (13) How did God demonstrate in the lives of these two people that He is sovereign?
3. Read verses 14-17. What instructions did Gabriel give Zechariah about his and his wife’s role as parents? (14-16) How did Gabriel describe the primary purpose of John’s life? (16-17)
4. Read verses 18-22. Why was Zechariah unable to speak until the day of the prophecy‘s fulfillment? (18-20) When have you doubted the reality of God’s provision for you?
5. Read verses 23-25. How did God demonstrate in the lives of Zechariah and Elizabeth that He is sovereign? (23-24) How did Elizabeth react to Zechariah’s news? (25)

**Apply it:**

1. What long-term frustration can you identify in your life that needs to be entrusted to God? How can you strengthen your realization that God is in control of the events of your life?