

# Youth

## One Heck of a Baby Announcement

Luke 1:68-79 | Session 7.50

### Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Listen to the FaithElement podcast for this session.
- Use the social media prompts on this session's webpage to help youth begin engaging the session ahead of their gathering.
- Prepare a group of concealed items that can be used for your "Context." (see below).
- Provide some paper and writing implements for each participant.

### Intro

Play the [Star Wars trailer](#) and ask questions like:

- Not that I'm inviting, but how do you feel about going to see this movie and why??
- If you've been following the pre-release information on this film, you know that the character of Rey is obviously going to be related to one of the main characters from the original films. What do you think is going to be her story?
- How do you think she starts this saga by thinking of herself as "nobody?"
- In what ways do you think that movie character plot-lines reflect our own?

## Context

Have an item covered by a bowl, towel, or some other means in front of everyone and invite a volunteer to come up and look at the item in a way that only they can see what it is. Tell the volunteer that, while they cannot show the item, she or he can either tell the truth about its identity or they can make something up about it. Either way, they should try to get the group to believe them. After they identify the item to the group, take a vote to determine who believes him or her. Have several items and invite multiple volunteers to identify them as time allows, then ask questions like:

- How did you decide what was the truth and what was not?
- What made someone a good liar, or at least appear trustworthy?
- Who do you trust in your life and how do you know you can trust them?
- Why do people have a hard time trusting God when they are in the dark places of their lives?
- In what ways does your relationship with God bring a light to such dark places?

## Content

Read [Luke 1:68-79](#), then watch the Bible Background Video.

Ask your group:

- From what you've heard, how did your family respond to your birth?
- How do you think the birth of a first child should be celebrated and why?
- Why does Zechariah praise God in this way?
- What expectations do you think Zechariah is setting up for his son?
- What expectations do you think people have had for you since you were born and how do you feel about them?

## Closure

Give everyone a sheet of paper and something with which to write and encourage them to draw a line across the page that represents their life journey up to this point. This line should go up for exciting and meaningful points in their lives and low for difficult and/or tragic points in their lives. After they have finished, invite volunteers to share their line graph and the points represented, then ask:

- Most of your graphs probably were not planned that way from your birth. What would it be like if your life was a constant high point and why?
- Why do you think God allows us to go through some of these low points in our lives?
- in what ways do our hard times make it easier or harder to trust in God?
- This is a time of year where many Christians celebrate Christ's birth through focusing on some of the things signified by his coming. For instance, this is "peace week" for several congregations. How do you see peace, or the lack thereof, affecting the progress of your life and why?
- How do you define peace and in what ways does peace affect your relationships?
- How might we help others have fewer, or less "low," low points in their lives by bringing peace to them?

Close this session in prayer for the future and for peace.

**Writer: Don Breeden**