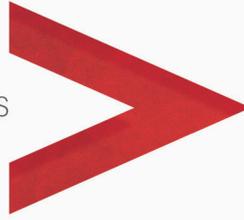


LESS IS



MORE

GROUP CURRICULUM

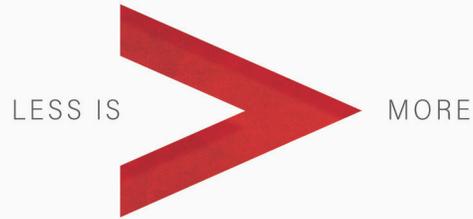
SERMON

John → Joy → Jesus (Luke 1:12-17)

DATE

November 19, 2017

And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." (Luke 1:12-17)



GROUP CURRICULUM

SERMON

John → Joy → Jesus (Luke 1:12-17)

DATE

November 19, 2017

1. Complete the blanks below that summarize the message for this new series:

The more I become _____, the more I begin to truly _____

2. As you look at John's parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth (v13), can you think of other stories in the Bible where the Lord chose to use a miraculous birth? Why do you think the Lord works in this particular way so frequently in Scripture?
3. Consider the prophecy of **Isaiah 40:3** concerning John precisely fulfilled in **Matthew 3:1-3**. Do some research and jot down to share some things that happened 700 years before your birth.
4. Who was the prophet before John? How many years separated the two men? Read **2 Peter 3:9**, **Romans 2:4** and **Isaiah 30:18**. According to those passages what is one reason for God's apparent delay with events? Do you think that this the only reason?
5. In verse 15, the angel of the Lord prophesies to Zechariah that his son will be "great before the Lord." Complete the following chart to answer:
 - a. What according to our passage will define John's greatness?
 - b. How does that differ from how greatness is defined elsewhere?

John the Baptist	Others
"great before <u>God</u> "	"great before <u>the world</u> "

6. As you consider John the Baptist's purpose given to him even before birth, have you thought much about your own purpose in your life? Why is this an easy thing to NOT do?
7. Pastor J.D. Greear writes, "Whatever you're good at, do it well for the glory of God, and do it somewhere strategic for the mission of God."¹ Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Take some time to pray and speak with the Lord. Can you say you're in that place right now?

¹*Gaining By Losing: Why the Future Belongs to Churches that Send (p. 75)*