

LUKE 1:39-45

7 OCTOBER 2023

ICE BREAKER: What food fills you up and satisfies you most?

LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

After the angel Gabriel’s visit, Mary **immediately** “got ready and **hurried** to a town...and greeted Elizabeth.” Mary had **experienced** the presence of God in an unmistakable encounter. Not only that, the angel proclaimed that soon God the Holy Spirit would enable her as a virgin to **conceive** a Son. How unbelievable is that? Who would possibly believe her story?

So what was Mary’s **first response**? She ran to Elizabeth, whom the angel proclaimed had a **similar** God-experience.

1. When we encounter God, why should we **immediately** seek the **company** of other **godly people**?

(Read verses 41 & 44) When Mary greeted Elizabeth, notice the vivid description of Elizabeth’s 6 month pre-born baby, John. The pre-born baby displayed **physical movement** and “**leaped** in her womb.” The pre-born baby displayed **emotional expression** and “leaped for **joy**”.

And most importantly, little pre-born John demonstrated **spiritual life** and “was **filled** with the **Holy Spirit**.” The angel Gabriel had proclaimed over six months earlier that John would “be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth” (1:15).

2. What **descriptions** of Elizabeth’s baby John **amaze** you about pre-born babies?

(Read Luke 1:15, 41, 67) Reading the Gospel of Luke, you are presented with, if you will, the ‘First Family’. Who is that? Not the family of Jesus, but the family of John the Baptist. The first chapter is dominated by the story of John’s remarkable family and God’s miracles through them.

What was significant about John’s family? Luke not only presented John as a person filled with the Holy Spirit, but his **whole family filled with the Holy Spirit**. Baby John, still in his mother’s womb, ‘was **filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth**.’ ‘Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.’ ‘His **father Zechariah** was filled with the Holy Spirit.’

3. How have you seen the work of **the Holy Spirit** in **members of your family**?

(Read Acts 2:38-39, Galatians 3:14 & Ephesians 5:18) Upon placing our faith and trust in Jesus Christ as the Savior for our sins, we receive the Holy Spirit into our hearts. Yet, despite each believing Christian possessing the Holy Spirit, Scriptures command us to daily ‘**be filled with the Holy Spirit**.’

What’s the difference between ‘receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit’ and being ‘filled with the Holy Spirit’? **The difference is presence and power.**

In the presence of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is seeking young or immature Christians for their permission and cooperation. In the power of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit demonstrates His power because of a Christian’s submission and complete dependence upon the Holy Spirit. The former **possesses the Holy Spirit**, while the latter is **being possessed by the Holy Spirit**.

4. How is **your relationship** with the **Holy Spirit**? What holds you back from being **filled** with the Holy Spirit?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Jesus with this week or invite to Celebration.)
