

WEEK 1

DISCUSSION GUIDE



There are certain things that make Christmas really feel like Christmas, right? Christmas trees, holly, candy canes, nativity sets, that one Christmas album your family can't get enough of . . . oh! And angels. If you pay attention, you'll find them everywhere this Christmas season. They're on Christmas trees, ornaments, and greeting cards. They're in Christmas carols, movies, and nativity sets. And they're all over the pages of Scripture, too. That's because angels played an important role in the very first Christmas. In this four-week series from the Gospels, we'll pay close attention to the announcements the angels made surrounding Jesus' birth. Together, we'll see why the messages the angels shared back then still matter today — like the message that **God's timing is always right**, that **Jesus is always good news**, that **we can always share God's story**, and that **God is always ready to rescue**.

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

God's timing is always right.

BIBLE

Luke 1:8-24; Romans 13:11-12;
Psalm 27:14

QUESTIONS

- What's your favorite thing about Christmas?
- What are some reasons people might find the holidays to be difficult?
- In the years Zechariah and Sarah spent praying for a child, what questions or doubts do you think they might have had about God? Have you ever had any of those questions or doubts?
- Why do you think it was so difficult for Zechariah to believe the angel's message? How do you think you would have reacted?
- What are some reasons people today might have a hard time trusting God's timing?
- Have you ever struggled to trust God was hearing or answering your prayers? Tell us about it.
- Which of these prayers sounds like something you might pray right now and why?
 - "God, I trust you."
 - "God, it's not easy, but I'm trying to trust you."
 - "God, why should I trust you?"
 - "God, I don't think I trust you."
- Read Psalm 27:14. Has God ever answered a prayer after you'd been waiting for a while? If so, how did that impact your faith?
- While we wait for God to answer our prayers, why is serving others, like Zechariah did, a good use of our time?
- This week, what's something you can do to show you're choosing to trust God's timing?

ACTIVITY

Brainstorm some simple but practical ways you can serve others this Christmas season, like writing encouraging notes, organizing a clothing drive, serving at a food pantry, or raise funds for people in need by shoveling neighbors' driveways for donations.