

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

## Silver Linings

**Week 1: Feeling Overlooked**  
**Luke 1:5-10**

**Week of November 28, 2021**  
**(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)**

In the time of Jesus' birth, at the very first Christmas, there was a priest named Zechariah. In this new sermon series, we take a look at how Zechariah's life intersected with God's greater plans for all humanity — and see how God often uses “silver linings” in our lives to show us His goodness.

**Kicking it off:** The Great Chicago Fire led to a revolution in architecture and engineering, followed by incredible growth and development in the city. What's your favorite building in the skyline? (Or another favorite city of your choice?)

### Discussion:

1. Zechariah faced tremendous challenges in life, with decades of deep disappointment, despite his righteous commitment to the Lord. What's one thing about becoming an adult that caught you completely off guard?
2. Read Luke 1:8-9. Share a time either when you were chosen *or you weren't chosen* to do something very important in school or at your job.

*“Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.” (NIV)*

3. Why do you think people might be tempted to turn from God when they face deep disappointments in life? What might lead us to be drawn *closer to God*?
4. Sometimes God lets us know what His plans are, and sometimes He does not. In light of Isaiah 55:8-9, what does it mean to say God's ways are “higher” than our ways? Describe a time when you experienced seeing God at work behind the scenes in your life.

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.  
‘As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.’” (NIV)*

5. In John 16:33, Jesus explains that although we might face challenges, He has already overcome the world. How can this truth encourage you in any disappointments you're facing?

*“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (NIV)*

**Wrapping It Up:** Share an area from your life where you could benefit from a renewed perspective of silver linings when dealing with life's difficulties. Then pray this prayer over your group members: *May our emptiness and disappointments lead us to find greater connection with the Lord Himself.*