

## Message #2 | “Your Prayer Has Been Heard” | Luke 1:5-25 Todd Dugard | November 10, 2013

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### WARMING UP

1. What are some of the reasons why people—both Christians and non-Christians alike—sometimes doubt that God actually responds to prayer?
2. *God responds to the heartfelt prayers of his often-despairing children.* How would you describe a “heartfelt prayer”? What does it mean for God to “respond”? When have you experienced this incredible reality during a season of personal despair?

### DIGGING IN

3. *Distressed, yet pursuing his righteousness (1:5-7).* What circumstance was causing distress to Zechariah and Elizabeth? What did others attribute their state of affairs to? Most importantly, what was God’s estimation of this couple? How is it possible for us to pursue righteousness in the midst of our distress?
4. *Disappointed, yet serving him gladly (1:8-10).* Pastor Todd said, “Even if you’re in a good place with God, there’s always going to be some hurt and grief” because of major disappointments in life. How is this true for you? In what ways does serving help keep us moving forward during difficult days?
5. *Doubting, yet crying out to him with resolve (1:11-18).* Talk about the evidence of both faith and doubt in Zechariah’s life. Can you relate? How so? Why is it hard for us to wait on God’s timing and trust his perfect plans when we are crying out?
6. *Disciplined, yet enjoying his glory (1:19-25).* According to Hebrews 12:5-11, how was even the discipline Zechariah faced a sign of God’s goodness? Philip Yancey writes, “Endurance is not just the ability to bear a hard thing but to turn it into glory.” What does this mean to you?

### BREAKING OUT

7. Cry out to God with heartfelt prayers in the midst of your personal despair and on behalf of fellow group members who are struggling. Petition him like it really matters—because it does! Come to him with bold faith and simple trust. And know beyond a shadow of a doubt that your prayers have been and are being heard.

