



June 24, 2018 Luke 1:57-66, 80 & Is. 49: 1-6

Birth of John the Baptist

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

God is once again active in the lives of the people with the birth of this son to aged parents. We find the relatives and neighbors hovering around and actively involved in the situation. Elizabeth, totally aware of God's involvement in this 'miraculous' birth, takes the initiative and gives the baby his name – "Yahweh is gracious".

As you reflect on this passage, try to imagine yourself in this situation. Try to enter into the thoughts and feelings of: Zechariah, Elizabeth, relatives, neighbors and those at the synagogues who had to be puzzled at all that happened. What insights were given to you?

Luke 1:57-66, 80

57 When it was time for **Elizabeth** to have her baby, she gave **birth to a son**. 58 Her **neighbors** and **relatives** heard that the Lord had shown her **great mercy**, and they shared her **joy**. 59 On the **eighth day** they came to **circumcise** the child, and they were going to **name him** after his father **Zechariah**, 60 but his **mother spoke** up and said, "No! He is to be called **John**." 61 They said to her, "There is no one among your **relatives** who has that name." 62 Then they made **signs to his father**, to find out what he would like to **name the child**. 63 He asked for a **writing tablet**, and to everyone's **astonishment** he **wrote**, "His name is **John**." 64 Immediately his **mouth was opened** and his **tongue was loosed**, and he began to **speak, praising God**. 65 The **neighbors** were all **filled with awe**, and **throughout the hill country** of Judea people were **talking** about all these things. 66 **Everyone** who heard this **wondered** about it, asking, "**What then is this child going to be?**" For the **Lord's hand was with him**.

80 And the **child grew and became strong in spirit**; and he lived in the **desert** until he appeared publicly to Israel.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: John's name means "Yahweh is gracious". Do you know what your [name means](#)?

PRAYER: Lord God, creator of all there is, was and ever will be, I am awed at the faith of the people who chose to do your will down through the ages. At John's birth people asked: "What then is this child going to be?" Now it is my turn to ponder what you are calling me into as I wake each day. Help me to discover what your love is inviting me into, and help me also with the strength to follow as they did. Amen.