

## PERSONAL REFLECTION GUIDE

12/22/24

At Southland Church, we are committed to help you KNOW Christ, LIVE like Him, and make Him KNOWN. This guide is designed to help you reflect on and apply what you learned from the sermon this weekend. Use this guide as a quiet time this week. Write your answers in a journal, with the date and main passage noted at the top of the page.

- What main point from the sermon stood out to you? What did the Holy Spirit convict you of or encourage you with?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you needed to receive mercy? What was that like?
- For 400 years – since the prophet Malachi – God did not speak to His people. But here, God speaks to a teenage girl and a barren family. What does this reveal to you about God?
- **Read Luke 1:57-66.** How did the birth of John demonstrate God’s “great mercy” (v. 58)?
- How did Zechariah and Elizabeth respond to God’s mercy? Why do you think the Judeans responded with fear (v. 65)?
- What does this passage reveal about man’s response to mercy? What does it reveal about God’s character?
- **Read Luke 1:67-80.** How does Zechariah’s prophecy connect the coming of John with the promises God made to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3) and David (2 Sam 7:12-16)?
- Jesus is called the “horn of salvation.” What do you think this term means? (For some context, it is only used one other time in the bible. **Read Psalm 18:1-6.**)
- Based on this passage, how does God show mercy to Israel and the whole world?
- How does God’s mercy display His glory (His beauty)?
- From Zechariah’s prophecy, what role is John to play in the story of salvation?
- Can you think of 3 people you know who need to know about the Lord and His salvation? How will you share with them? Be specific about your plan (maybe even write it down) - when you hope to share and what you hope to say.
- Write one step of obedience the Holy Spirit is leading you towards this week. Who will you tell about this step, in order to help you?

## LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK

**Read Luke 2:1-38.** In what ways should God becoming man (called the “Incarnation”) humble us? What might keep you from treasuring this fact in your heart?



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## FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Southland Church is committed to helping parents raise the next generation of disciples who KNOW Christ, LIVE like Him, and make Him KNOWN. This guide is meant to help you as a family, particularly those over 12 years old, to discuss the Sunday sermon. You can do this in an evening devotion or over lunch after service.

A few tips to get started: (1) Make this a phone-free conversation. You and your family put the phones away, except for the person who looks up the Scriptures. He/She would read the passage and then put his/her phone away. (2) Set the pace for how vulnerable to be. If you give a shallow answer, you are more likely to get a shallow answer from your kids. (3) Do not feel like you have to ask all of these questions. Just focus on having a good honest discussion.

Open with prayer, asking God to lead you to know more about Christ and live like Him.

- What stood out to you from the sermon this week? What challenged or encouraged you?
- What is mercy? ("The gift of undeserved kindness and forgiveness") When is a time that you needed mercy and got it?
- What was it like for you to receive mercy?
- **Read Luke 1:57-66.** How did God show mercy (v. 58, 64) in this passage?
- How did Zechariah respond to God's mercy? How did the other people respond?
- Why do you think the people were afraid in **verse 65**?
- What does God's mercy reveal about who He is and what He's like?
- **Read Luke 1:67-80.** What phrases does Zechariah use to describe God and Jesus?
- **Read Psalm 18:1-3 and Jeremiah 23:5-6.** Based on Zechariah's prophecy, Jesus fulfills these promises. What do they reveal about God?
- Based on Zechariah's prophecy, what role does John play in the story of salvation?
- Can you think of one person you know who needs to know about the Lord and His salvation? How will you share with them? Be specific about your plan (maybe even write it down) - when you hope to share and what you hope to say.
- What is one thing you want to put in practice from these passages or the sermon?

Ask if there is some way you can pray for your family members, and then close in prayer.



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