



5-Day Devo

for Individuals and Groups

based on

Advent | Week 3
Two Visits from Gabriel

Pastor Brady Boyd
December 15, 2024

Day 1: Treasuring God's Patience

Devotional Zechariah's story (see the verses below) reminds us that God hears imperfect prayers from imperfect people. Zechariah doubted, just like believers sometimes do today. He asked, *"How can I be sure?"*—essentially questioning God's ability. And yet, God didn't turn away. Instead, he responded patiently, with grace and truth. Even in our moments of weak faith, God answers. He isn't offended by honest questions. He welcomes them because his power doesn't depend on our certainty—only his faithfulness.

Bible Verse "But the angel said to him: 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth.' Zechariah asked the angel, 'How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.' The angel answered, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.'" (Luke 1:13-14, 18-19)

Reflection Question What honest question can you ask God today, that question that will convey the truest thing you're feeling right now?

Point to Ponder God is able, even when we're unsure.

Prayer "Lord, help me to rely solely on your power today."

Day 2: Resting in God's Timing

Devotional Zechariah and Elizabeth's story teaches us about God's perfect timing. Despite their long wait for a child, they remained faithful in their service to God. Even as we may not always understand his timing, we can trust that God is always working for our good—faithfully, tirelessly, boundlessly. In this way, we know that God's timing is perfect, even when it doesn't align with our own plans ... neither too early, nor too late.

Bible Verse "And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time." (Luke 1:20)

Reflection Question Think of an area of your life right now where you are doubting God's perfect timing. What might it look like for you to surrender that situation or set of circumstances to him, even if just for today?

Point to Ponder God's delays are not denials; his timing is always perfect.

Prayer "Heavenly Father, help me to trust in your perfect timing. Give me the patience and faith to wait on you, knowing that you are working for my good. Amen."

Day 3: Embracing God's Surprises

Devotional God is full of surprises, and his plans often exceed our expectations. Mary's acceptance of God's plan, despite the potential shame and uncertainty, challenges us to trust and obey God's purposes for our lives. Embrace the wonder and beauty in your daily life, regardless of how incidental it may seem! In this way, you'll be reminding yourself that God is with you and working in your life.

Bible Verse "In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee." (Luke 1:26)

Reflection Question What would it take for you stay open today to being surprised by God?

Point to Ponder God's unexpected plans invite us to trust, grow, and be amazed.

Prayer "Lord, help me to stay awake. To stay alert. To keep my hands, my mind, and my heart open to whatever you choose to use in catching my eye, capturing my affection, and delighting me to my toes. Amen."

Day 4: Being Still in God's Presence

Devotional In the busyness of life, it is essential to find moments of stillness to connect with God. 'Be still and know that He is the Lord.' This stillness allows us to renew our strength and find peace in His presence. Take a deep breath, sit, and wait, letting the Lord do His work in your life. This practice will help you cultivate a deeper sense of joy and trust in God's faithfulness.

Bible Verse "But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.'" (Luke 1:30)

Reflection Question How can you incorporate moments of stillness into your routine today to connect with God and have your strength renewed?

Point to Ponder Be still and know that he is the Lord.

Prayer "Father, teach me to be still and know that you are God. Quiet my spinning thoughts. Increase my focus so that I can sit with you undistracted, unassuming, unrushed. Amen."

Day 5: Trusting God's Faithfulness

Devotional God is good, and rather than being based on our circumstances, that goodness is rooted in his unchanging character. He knows us intimately, every thought, fear, and longing of our hearts. In seasons when life feels uncertain or chaotic, it's easy to wonder where he is or what he's doing, but look back, and you'll see his fingerprints—moments of grace, provision, and protection all along the way. He has been faithful, even when we haven't been able to see or understand his plan. Today, trust that same faithfulness. The God who knows you completely is for you and with you. Rest in his goodness, confident that he is always working for your ultimate good.

Bible Verse "After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. 'The Lord has done this for me,' she said. 'In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.'" (Luke 1:24-25)

Reflection Question When was a specific time that God was faithful to you, and what feelings rise to the surface as you consider that faithfulness afresh?

Point to Ponder Even when I don't seem to work, even when I don't feel like you're working, you never stop. You never stop working.

Prayer Lord, thank you for your faithfulness. May your faithful presence and provision prompt me to live faithfully, too. Amen."