

## WHITFIELD PARISH

St James' Church † St Luke's Church

### LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 8 November 2009

#### 'Be Prepared'

As we saw with Moses' story earlier this year, Luke 1 is all about the 'Big Picture' and the 'Small Details'. God sees both and weaves them together to achieve wonderful things in the world.

#### Read Luke 1.1-7

History is about to intervene in the very personal story of one couple's brokenness.

1. Do you know of any other stories (from the Bible or elsewhere) where God uses a person/couple/community's brokenness to bring about real change?

You don't have to share now, but you might want to take a moment to quietly think about any long-term burdens that you carry. We'll pray about them later.

#### Read Luke 1.8-17

This prophecy of John's birth connects with many OT passages. Why not look at Malachi 3-4 and Numbers 6 (and any others you can think of)?

2. With these passages in mind, what is the significance of Gabriel's announcement?

#### Read Luke 1.18-25

3. Why do you think Gabriel responds so sternly to Zechariah, yet not to Mary, who asks a similar question in Luke 2.34?

Sometimes, living with long-term disappointment, we can become immune to the possibility that things can change. Proverbs 13.12 says, 'Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.'

4. Are there areas in your life where you have become 'heart-sick' because of a long-term difficulty or disappointment?
5. What would it mean, for you and others, for God to bring change into that situation?

Share as openly as is appropriate for your group. Then, take some time to pray for each other, particularly asking God to restore faith that change is possible and to bring about transformation in these painful situations.