

Hope

**“God is making life out of
barren places”**

5In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. 6Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. 7But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. Luke 1:5-7

Barren:

synonyms: unproductive, infertile, unfruitful, sterile, arid, desert bleak and lifeless.

rab-bim' It means abundantly.

***I come so that you may live life more
abundantly. John 10:10***

**Not just abundant life but a life lived
MORE abundantly.**

Zoe - Life to the full till it overflows

11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. 13 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 call him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth,

15for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. **16**He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.

17And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Luke 1:17

What are you HOPING for?

**1. HOPE is the key ingredient of
FAITH**

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. Hebrews 11:1 NLT

**You cannot have FAITH without
HOPE**

Hope – a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen

**GOD IS MAKING LIFE OUT OF
BARREN PLACES**

**2. Hope is not a feeling, it's a
choice!**

**3. It's our responsibility to stay in
hope**

**it's one thing to have hope, it's a
whole other to stay in hope**

6Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly.

Luke 1:6

13But 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 call him John. Luke 1:13

**4. Living in hope sets us up for
miracles!**

24After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.

25“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

Apply to your life:

What are your barren places?

What are you hoping for?

How will you choose to “get your hopes up” and stay in hope this Christmas?

Hope