**When Love Comes Down: Creative Change**
**Luke 1:66-80**
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**Luke 1:66-80**: Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him. [67] His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: [68] "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. [69] He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David [70] (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), [71] salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us-- [72] to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, [73] the oath he swore to our father Abraham: [74] to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear [75] in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. [76] And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, [77] to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, [78] because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven [79] to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." [80] And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel. (NIV)

## Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church, and Community

1. _____ to experiencing creative change

_____ : They were terribly disappointed and embarrassed that they had no child because Elizabeth was barren. After all, they had been faithful, why didn't they have this blessing? Less deserving people had children. Now they were too old to have children and would be forever shamed! Luke 1:7 (JOT)

_____ : Zacharia: This is impossible! I am old and my wife is old! Gabriel: I have been sent to share this good news with you, not a single Word of God can fail!... You won't be able to speak since you did not believe this Word until everything has been fulfilled!
Luke 1:18-20 (JOT)

2. _____ the power of God's change

_____ wonder: Wonder fell upon the whole neighborhood, and the news of what had happened spread through the Judean hills. And everyone who heard about it thought long thoughts and asked, "I wonder what this child will turn out to be? For the hand of the Lord is surely upon him in some special way." Luke1:65–66 (TLB)

_____ praise: Bless the Lord, the God of Israel, because God has come to minister to his people through ransoming them from slavery…he has raised up salvation…just as he promised…it proves he remembers his covenant…he rescued…he enabled us to serve him…..
Luke 1:68-74 (JOT)

_____ the light of life: Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, [79] to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace." Luke 178-79 (NLT)

3. _____ God's greater love

_____ : God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17 (NCV)

## Spiritual Action Step:

**What is keeping you from responding to God's love? Are you content with the darkness of your sin? Are you struggling to believe this Word that God loves you without conditions?** Johns says: *So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.* (John 1:14-15 (NLT)) Believe this Word because God sent it so that you would know his love and power in your life. You respond to this gift by accepting it and acknowledging that you cannot save yourself. God wants to guide you to the light of joy and peace during this Christmas season. This week, read Luke 1 and John 3 to allow the light of God to shine into the darkness of your soul!

*Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; TLB: The Living Bible; NLT: New Living Translation; New Century Version*