

## Assignments from God

*Luke 1:5-17*

**Introduction:** This year for Advent we are studying John the Baptist. We are focusing on John because his birth, life and ministry are so closely tied in with the birth, life and ministry of Christ. And though certainly John's life and calling were unique, there are many things that we can learn from him, especially how we should view ourselves in relation to Jesus. Today, we begin by considering John's assignment from God and what we can learn through it about our own assignments from God.

**Opening Question:** What is something that you look forward to about the Christmas season?

### Read Luke 1:5-17

1. How does the angel describe John the Baptist (vv. 13-17)?
2. How would you summarize the assignment that God gives to John?
3. In what ways will John be especially set apart for the assignment that God is giving to him?
4. How is the sovereignty of God in giving assignments expressed in this passage?

Brian said:

Most of us will not have an assignment as distinct as John's. John's was a unique calling. He alone was called to be the one who would come before Jesus to prepare the people for Jesus. It was a unique, distinct, life-long assignment. For most of us our core assignment is going to be much more general. If I were to summarize the core assignment that God has given to each one of us it is to be disciples of Jesus who bear fruit.

5. Do you agree that our core assignment from God is to be a disciple who bears fruit? Why or why not?

6. How does living as a fruit-bearing disciple point people to Jesus?

Brian said:

Most of our assignments are already revealed to us in Scripture. You probably shouldn't wait for an angel to come reveal an assignment to you. The way John's assignment was revealed to him was a unique thing. For us, most of our assignments are already objectively revealed to us in Scripture. For instance, if you are a husband or a wife your assignment is clear right? Husbands love your wife. Wives see to it that you respect your husbands. We are taught that in Ephesians 5. Or think about the list of 'one anothers' in Scripture. We are to love one another (Rom. 12:10), build up one another (Rom 14:19), serve one another (Gal. 5:13), bear one anothers burdens (Gal. 6:2). You get the point. Scripture has already revealed most of our God-given assignments. We need to be careful to not wait for an angel to tell us what God wants to do because He has already told us most of what He wants us to do in the Scriptures.

7. Do you agree that most of our assignments are already revealed to us in Scripture? Why or why not?

8. In addition to our core assignment of being a disciple of Jesus and in addition to the things that God has already revealed to us about assignments in the Scriptures, God does still whisper to us other unique, specific assignments. In what ways have you experienced this?

9. How ready are you to be an assignment doer? What if anything tends to hold you back?

10. What is your main take-away from this study?