

# A Season of Sacrifice

Part 3: Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John the Baptist  
Various passages

## Launch

What is your favorite Christmas tradition? Have you developed any new traditions in recent years?

## Explore

### Read Luke 1:12-17

Knowing that their son would be a powerful prophet, what sacrifices would Zechariah and Elizabeth have to make in order to raise him?

### Read Luke 1:57-66, 80

How was naming their son “John” a sacrifice for them? How did their dedication to putting God’s purpose first pay off?

### Read John 3:22-30

*John was unique: living in the wilderness, wearing camel hair clothes, eating locusts and honey, etc.* What does John’s response to his followers say about his attitude in the midst of this huge sacrifice?

## Apply

Why is raising kids to have godly character so difficult?

If you’re a parent: What are some of the biggest challenges you’ve had in trying to make God’s purpose for your kids a priority? What sacrifices have you made?

If you’re not a parent: What sacrifices did your parents make for you?

## Pray

Pray that we would be countercultural, making choices that reflect the attitude of John the Baptist: “He must become greater, I must become less.”