

## Royal Redeemer CGS Community Discussion Guide

Based on the Sermon for Dec 8&9, 2018  
*It's a Wonderful Life: Great Expectations*

(For use as an opening Devotion, use  
only the highlighted portion)



- **Begin by sharing a high and/or a low from your week**
- **Connect**
  - Share about a time when your expectations led to disappointment.
- **Grow** (read the following aloud and listen for words or phrases that speak into your life now)

### Luke 1: 5-13

5 In 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. 6 Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. 7 But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. 8 Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. 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.

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
  - What expectations would Elizabeth have had about having a child?
  - What social pressures as well as personal pressures would she have had not being able to conceive?
  - How disappointed and discouraged would she have been being "old" and not having any children?
  - How joyful would she have been when she discovered she was pregnant, and with such an important child?
  - Has there been a time when God didn't answer your prayers the way you had wanted Him to, but He did in a way so much greater than your expectations? Remember that the next time your expectations are leading to disappointment for you.
- **Serve**
    - Who might God want you to share this message of Hope and Peace with?

- **End with Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**