



**Hill Cliffe Study Guide**  
**Sunday 3 December 2023**  
**#1 An angel of the Lord appears to Zechariah.**

1. What impacted you most from the Sermon on Sunday?

**Please read Isaiah 40.3-5; Malachi 4.5-6**

2. What will characterize the ministry of the person described in these prophetic passages?

**Please read Luke 1. 1-10**

3. What is revealed here about the style and purpose of Luke's written account?
4. What do we learn about the first people described in his gospel?

**Please read Luke 1.11-12 - *An angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah...***

**Please also read Genesis 28,10-13; Genesis 19.1-3, 9-13; 1 Kings 19.5-7; Exodus 23.20-21**

5. What do these few example passages about angel appearances tell us about angels?
6. Given his priestly experience and knowledge of scripture, it's likely that Zechariah deduced that the 'person' who suddenly appeared beside the altar of incense was an angel of the Lord – why do you think he was gripped with fear?

**Please read Luke 1.13-17**

7. What do you think of how the angel speaks with Zechariah, and what he reveals to Zechariah?

**Please read Luke 1.18-25**

8. Despite his years of priestly experience, Zechariah lacks belief in the message from the messenger of God. Zechariah was guilty of questioning God – God's message was only believable if it was understandable to Zechariah. Can you relate to this tendency?
9. Gabriel doesn't attempt to answer Zechariah's question and doubts with an explanation of how God would do what He promised – he simply says, I am from God, and this is God's message...end of. Why does that answer any questions of unbelief?
10. Why do you think Zechariah's ability to speak was disabled by the angel?
11. It was Elizabeth who became the immediate bearer of the good news to others. Does this highlight a link between our belief (or lack of belief) and our participation (or limited participation) in the work of God's Kingdom?

**Please read Luke 1. 57-66**

12. Zechariah's voice and participation is restored and He worship's God. Why is this an encouragement to us all?