TEXT: LUKE 1

<u>Directions:</u> - Let the whole chapter be read first time you come together to study this chapter so that everyone could participate fully. Thereafter, the class may then be reading recommended verses as needed when answering the questions. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.

Read the following passage from the Book of Luke and answer the questions that follow.

Chapter 1

- 1. For whom was the Gospel of Luke originally written, and why?
- 2. What did the Angel of the Lord, Gabriel, say to Zechariah?
- 3. Why did Zechariah lose the ability to speak, and when did it come back?
- 4. How did Mary's reaction to Gabriel's words differ from Zechariah's?
- 5. What miracle occurred when Elizabeth saw Mary for the first time?
- 6. How did Mary connect God's promise in the past to what is happening to her now?
- 7. Explain these words from Zechariah about the goal John the Baptist: "to give light to those who live in darkness and the shadow dark as death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:78-79)

Answer Key

Chapter 1

- 1. For whom was the Gospel of Luke originally written, and why? The gospel was written to Theophilus, by Luke, because he wanted to provide an ordered account of the life of Jesus. Critics have argued, however, whether Theophilus was a Christian friend of Luke's, or a term for all followers of Christ. In Greek, Theophilus means "friend of God".
- 2. What did the Angel of the Lord, Gabriel, say to Zechariah? He told Zechariah that he would have a son and call him John. He would be born filled with the Holy Spirit and would prepare the way of the Lord.
- 3. Why did Zechariah lose the ability to speak, and when did it come back? He lost the ability to speak because he doubted the Word of God when he heard it. He regained ability to speak after the birth of John the Baptist when he was asked about naming John.
- 4. How did Mary's reaction to Gabriel's words differ from Zechariah's? Mary believed and accepted the Word of God. She just questioned how it could be done.
- 5. What miracle occurred when Elizabeth saw Mary for the first time? John leaped in Elizabeth's womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- 6. How did Mary connect God's promise in the past to what is happening to her now? She said it is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham.
 - 7. Explain these words from Zechariah about the goal John the Baptist: "to give light to those who live in darkness and the shadow dark as death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace." John will ask people to repent from their sins and follow the path of Christ so that they will not die, but rather, would live in eternity with our Father in heaven.