**A Prayer Heard Study Guide and Small Group Discussion Questions (Luke 1:1-25)**

We see from the story of Jesus' birth that a few people played key roles in ushering the Savior into the world He came to save. These people, as they took on this privilege, received immaterial gifts – one of which was the opportunity to be heard by God through prayer.

***6 Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly.***

Do you think that living righteously guarantees that our heart’s desires and prayers will be given by the Lord? Why or why not?

Why do you think God delays or even says no to our prayers even if our requests are good and are according to His standards?

What can we say to ourselves and to others when the answers to our prayers are delayed or not what we are expecting?

*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.***

How beneficial is the gift of prayer to you? In what ways do you show your gratitude for this gift?

What are some challenges that hinder Christians from growing in the discipline of prayer?

How can you become more prayerful? What are some things that you can immediately do in building this discipline?

***18 Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”***

Is doubt a bad thing? Does doubting mean that we have less faith?

Doubting may rob us of the joy of experiencing God’s power and miracles. Have you experienced missed opportunities of joy because you were not fully trusting the Lord? Share some experiences.

How can we move from doubt to trust? How do we train our minds to overcome moments of doubt?