

1. What do we learn about Luke's method, audience and purpose from the opening paragraph of this book (1:1-4)?
2. Scan through the opening chapter – what are some of the big moments and events that unfold?
3. What's really going on in this chapter and why is that significant? (Hint: the two songs help us to interpret what is happening)?
4. What do we learn about Zechariah and Elizabeth's circumstances (v5-7)?
5. How does God supernaturally interrupt their lives? What are they told about their future son (v11-17)?
6. Why did Zechariah lose his speech (v18-20)? How is this different to Mary's response to the angel (v34-37)? (See also v45)
7. What do we learn about Mary, her background and her circumstances (v26-27)?

8. What is Mary told about her future son? What is the significance of this in light of the bigger story of the bible (see, for example, 2 Samuel 7:8-16)?
9. What reason does the angel give Mary as to why she should believe what she has been told? What promises of God do you find hardest to believe?
10. What is Mary's song about (v46-55)? Try to pick out the main themes.
11. What is Zechariah's song about (v67-79)?
12. What do v68-75 say God is rescuing his people *from*? What do they say he is rescuing them *for*?
13. Why is John important in the bigger plans of God (see Malachi 3:1)?
14. What are some of the Old Testament promises and characters mentioned or alluded to in these two songs?
15. What is the main thing you have learnt from this chapter? How will this change your understanding of God and what He is doing?