

LESSON TITLE:

**LIVING IN THE
MIDDLE**

**December Sermon
Series:
The Characters of
Christmas**

**Living in the
Middle
Lesson Two**

“When you come to the edge of all the light you have and must take a step into the darkness of the unknown, believe that one of two things will happen. Either there will be something solid for you to stand on - or you will be taught how to fly.”

**Where is God when
we are in the
MIDDLE of Waiting?**

**THE MIDDLE is
God telling us -
not yet.**

**Sometimes God
delays what we want
to give us something
better than we think
we need.**

“Often the situation that we want changed is what God uses to change us. He is more interested in preparing your character than giving you what you want or making sure you are comfortable.”

**Scripture
Lesson
Luke 1:5-13**



Luke 1:5-13, 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. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly.

But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.

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.”

**“The scars of
waiting.”**



**Three Things
Elizabeth Did While
Waiting:**

**1. Elizabeth Remained
Faithful to God
Despite the Delay.**

**“Delay does not
mean denial.”**

**Galatians 6:9, And let us
not be weary in well-
doing: for in due season,
we shall reap, if we faint
not.**

**2. She was Active in
Service within Her
Community.**

“Great opportunities to help others seldom come but small ones surround us every day.”

**3. She Relied on
Prayer and Trusted
in God's Plan.**

**Jeremiah 29:11, For I know
the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, plans to
prosper you and not harm
you, plans to give you hope
and a future.**

**Psalm 27:14, Wait on the
Lord, be of good courage,
and He shall strengthen your
heart. Wait, I say on the
Lord.**

Living in the Middle:

**1. Produces Spiritual
Growth**

2. Builds Reliance on God

**Are You Losing Your
Grip On Hope?**

**Is Holding on to
Hope a Challenge?**

**Living in the Middle is
a Place to Discover
God.**

**Psalm 62:5-6, Yes, my soul,
find rest in God; my hope
comes from Him. Truly He is
my rock and my salvation;
He is my fortress; I will not
be shaken.**