

“And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord. You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. Because of God’s tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.” Luke 1:76-79 NLT

## lectio // Luke 1:57-80

Zechariah gives this tender, beautiful, prophetic word over John, his son. After not being able to speak for 9 months, because he had arrogant doubts about Gabriel’s words to him in the temple, Zach not only begins to speak powerful words of redemption, but he also speaks over his son - about this role he will play in preparing the way for the messiah. “You my little son,” is so adorable and tender. You feel the deep connection, not just as a father but also a very long fulfillment to a promise. There has been a lot of talk about the Father’s blessing over their children OR really the lack of the Father’s blessing. Can you see how this entire journey with Zechariah has re-formed his entire theology, his entire foundation of faith? NOW he sees, NOW he believes and NOW he speaks over his son’s future, “You will be...” Wow. Imagine the power, in our your family, of a dad with that kind of relationship with God and that kind of authority to speak over their children’s lives. Imagine the power of a transformed life, like Zach, speaking over the children in his community as well. When you have this authentic encounter with God, it gives you the **STRENGTH TO SPEAK** blessing and a future of hope and light. His words to his own son became a path, a purpose for John where one day he would “tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins!” And John would baptize Jesus, the son of the living God, in the Jordan river. Wow. Amazing!

## oratio

Dad,

Until I read this story about Zechariah, I had almost completely forgot about my role, our role, as fathers to positively project a prophetic future for our own children and grandchildren. And, for the children we influence and lead. To see beyond the personality and character challenges to see your fingerprints of their future. And to speak that over them, in the presence of their parents who hear hope, and a bright future for their child. Where the child and the parents begin to frame all the struggles as possibilities of strength for you to use in them for their future. Help me to pray over the children I influence and help me to speak over their lives with blessing and hope. Amen.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root