

**Establishing Your Convictions**  
**Luke 1:1-80**

I came across a book sometime back entitled, *The Church of Irresistible Influence*, written by Robert Lewis with Rob Wilkins (Zondervan, 2001). I like that title. It talks about a strong church, a passionate church, an intentional church, a reproducing church. It talks about a church that loves Jesus, loves one another, and lives to reach the world with the Good News. It talks about "living for Jesus." Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:15, "And he [Jesus] died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised again." This morning we're starting a series in Luke to enhance, develop and focus what we're already doing.

**1. What does it mean to "\_\_\_\_\_”?**

**2. Cultivate your \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(Luke 1:1-4)

**3. Sharpen your \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(Luke 1:26-38, 46-55, 68-79)

### **Resource for Families**

Every week your child receives a take home paper from her/his Sunday School class. I would highly suggest going through the “Daily Family Devotional Readings” and doing the “Family Fun Activities.” For a biblical foundation for our roles as parents, read Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 20-25.

## **Day by Day in the Word**

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help in the transformation process in which the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

### **Monday-Tuesday**

- Read Luke 1:5-25 and 1:26-38. Compare and contrast these two stories.
- Describe the character of John the Baptist and his ministry. Describe the character and ministry of Jesus.
- What do you find out about God in your reading? How will your study today enable you to live for Jesus? Share with someone what you’ve learned and how you’re applying what you’ve learned.

### **Wednesday-Thursday**

- Read Luke 1:39-45 and 1:46-56. What do you find out about Mary’s response? Don’t forget to look at 1:45 and 1:46-49.
- For discussion: Why do you think that the virgin conception is important?
- In Mary’s song, identify several character traits and actions of God. How does God treat the humble and how does God treat the proud? How would you define mercy? What reversals do you see?
- What can we learn from Mary about how she lives for the Lord? Do you find any principles you can apply to your life? Determine one way that you can apply what you’ve learned today and put it into practice.

### **Friday-Saturday**

- Read Luke 1:57-66 and 1:67-80. What changes have taken place in Zechariah? Compare this response with his earlier response in 1:18-20. What can we learn from him about how he lives for the Lord? Note Luke 1:6-7.
- What do you find out about what God is doing? What do you find out about Christ and what he will be doing?
- Focus your attention on Luke 1:78-79. How do these verses help clarify what “living for Jesus” means for us concretely? What can you do today to develop this in your own life? Share that with someone.