1. **Luke 1:14-17**

* Reflect on this verse and share John’s attributes.
* **1 Samuel 1:10-11, 24-28, Judges 13:3-5**
* Considering these children of the **Old Testament** whose parents had a similar experience to Zechariah and Elizabeth (in regard to having a child), what other similarities can you find between Samson, Samuel, and John?
* What is unique about a Nazirite (consider the Biblical text, check your footnote, or Google it)?
* **Malachi 3:1-2**
* What does this **Old Testament** reading state is going to happen?
* Who might be the messenger?
* Who other than the messenger is arriving?
* How might this relate to John the Baptist and Jesus Christ?
* **Sirach 48:9-10,Malachi 3:19-24**
* According to these **Old Testament** readings, who is expected return to “turn the heart of fathers to their sons, and the heart of sons to their fathers”?
* Where does it say something similar about John in **Luke**?
* Reflect on **Malachi** and explain what is happening in this **Old Testament** passage.
* At the end of **Malachi**, it mentions two key figures in verses **22 and 23**, who are they?
* What do these two persons represent in the **Old Testament**?
* Who might represent these two things in the **New Testament**?
* **Luke 16:16**
* We will reflect more on **Luke 16** later in the study, but today consider what it might mean that “the Law and the Prophets lasted until John.”
* **2 Kings 1:1-8, Mark 1:5-6**
* Who in the **Old Testament** looks like John the Baptist in the **New Testament**?
* Do you think John did this intentionally, to entice others to speculate about who he was or was it caused by something else?
* Reflect back on **Luke 14:17** and explain what it might mean “to go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah”?
* **St. Bede** (672 AD – 735 AD) *Homilies on The Gospels Section 2.19*

“When our Lord and Redeemer was about to come in the flesh, he sent on ahead many witnesses and they arose at different times and from different tribes of the people of Israel, they were to foretell by their prophecies the mystery of his incarnation, not differing in their faith, but with one and the same meaning in all its details. The last of them and a kind of dividing line between law and gospel, figure and truth, was John [the Baptist]. He appeared as the Lord attested, saying, ‘*The law and the prophets were until John, since then the good news of the Kingdom of God is proclaimed*’. Hence [John] was said to be more than a prophet, because he was the first to express by his prophecy that [Christ] was going to come, and also to point him out, showing him when he came, whereas others only foretold [his coming] by prophesying long before.”

* **Catechism** **717-720**
* Share something that stood out to you in today’s study.