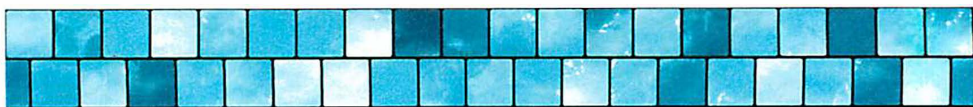


The Jub

STRANGER THINGS

Episode Three
'The Judean First Time Moms Club'

welcome to long beach alliance church
september 25, 2016



- Q. Elizabeth tells Mary she is "blessed among women" (Luke 1:42). If you were in the same circumstances, would you feel "blessed?"**
- Q. Jesus would (someday) teach quite a bit on blessing. Read Matthew 5:3-11. What is required for blessing?**



Long
Beach
Alliance
Church

Love Others

Love God

Serve the World

Annual Vision
Dinner & Meeting
October 9, 2016
5:00PM

MEN'S
RETREAT

LBAC MEN

Hume Lake Men's Retreat October 20-23, 2016



Contact Mike Comstock
comstock7@verizon.net
562.505.8389

Spots are filling up; don't miss out!
HUMLAKE.ORG/MENS

Adult Equipping Class

Beginning Sunday, October 2 @ 10:45AM

Visit the information table in the courtyard TODAY!

LEARNING ABOUT THE BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE!

FOUNDATIONS

The Next 50 Update

LBAC's Facility Renovation Fund



Visit <http://www.lbac.org/our-church/giving>
for information about giving online, and
for more detailed giving information!

LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Required</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget %</u>
Weekly:	\$12,236.37	\$7,389.53	60.4%
Month-to-Date:	\$36,709.11	\$34,783.35	94.8%
Year-to-Date:	\$36,709.11	\$34,783.35	94.8%
Disbursed YTD: \$26,060.94		GOF Balance: \$9,343.25	

LBAC's Church Family Calendar & Events

Sunday, September 25

- 9:00AM Worship Celebration 1
- 10:00AM Mind the Gap (Courtyard)
- 10:45AM Foundations Youth Meeting
- 10:45AM Worship Celebration 2
- 12:30PM Youth Parent Meeting
- 6:00PM Perspectives

Monday, September 26

- 7:00PM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous

Tuesday, September 27

- 7:00PM Elder Board Meeting
- 7:00PM Junior High & High School Youth Group/Core Groups

Wednesday, September 28

- 6:30PM AWANA

Friday, September 30

- 6:30AM Men's Bible Study
- 8:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, October 1

- 9:00AM New Member's Class
- 6:00PM AWANA YM Event

Sunday, October 2

- 9:00AM Worship Celebration 1
- 10:00AM Mind the Gap (Courtyard)
- 10:45AM Foundations Youth Meeting
- 10:45AM Worship Celebration 2
- 10:45AM Adult Equipping Hour Class
- 12:30PM Youth Parent Meeting
- 6:00PM Perspectives

MISSIONS

<http://www.lbac.org/ministries/missions>

Join us for Perspectives & Serving the World!

GROWTH GROUPS

<http://www.lbac.org/ministries/growth-groups>

Mid-week Bible Studies for all Adults
GROUPS GOING ON NOW!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/ministries/childrens-ministries>

Sunday Mornings

Gospel Project @ 9:00AM & 10:45AM

AWANA

<http://www.lbac.org/ministries/childrens-ministries/awana>

Wednesdays in September
6:30PM-8:30PM

YOUTH MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/youth>

JH & HS Foundations ~ Sundays @ 10:45AM

JH & HS Core Groups ~ Tuesdays @ 7:00PM

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/ministries/womens-ministries>

Woman To Woman Mentoring

Contact: sherylnnelbac@gmail.com

Lydia House Meals Ministry

Contact: robbi@apabrando.com

Women Connecting with Missions

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00PM

Crafty Women

2nd Saturday of each month @ 10:00AM

MEN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/ministries/mens-ministries>

Contact: mensministry@lbac.org

long beach alliance church offices

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www.facebook.com/longbeachalliancechurch
church office hours: tuesday-friday, 12NOON-5:00PM

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kelly@lbac.org

jesse duckett, youth pastor
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chris lankford, lead pastor
ext. 1001 • chris@lbac.org

tina rand, receptionist & treasurer
ext. 1006 • tina@lbac.org

matt swaney, family ministry pastor
ext. 1003 • matt@lbac.org

scott trickett, associate pastor
ext. 1002 • scott@lbac.org

STRANGER THINGS

Episode Three: The Judean First-Timer Moms Club
Long Beach Alliance Church • September 25, 2016 • Pastor Chris Lankford

A voice cries, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Isaiah 40:3-5

1) A God of the Strangest Things

- A) The extraordinary angelic announcement from Gabriel to Mary that she was to be a mother (Luke 1:26-38) was an incredibly "strange thing" bringing both excitement and confusion!**

- B) Of course, the confusion is easy to understand. Mary was a "pregnant engaged virgin" (1:27); a strangely scandalous "impossibility!" The excitement is also easy to understand. Mary is a (single) mother, and is going to be having a baby boy!**

- C) In the midst of the announcement from Gabriel to Mary, another "impossibility" is revealed about her 'much older' 6-months pregnant formerly-barren relative Elizabeth (1:36-37)! Despite outward appearances and inward confusion, Mary is not alone!**

- D) Elizabeth's pregnancy is cause for Mary to be more excited! Mary has support, even in the scandal of her pregnancy. Another miracle is at work, another new mother is not too far away! God is doing another "strange thing," but why?**

2) Mary's Immediate Response to God's Message

- A) The angelic revelation of Elizabeth's pregnancy is cause for Mary to immediately depart (1:39). Mary's urgency is in obedience, knowing that Gabriel was revealing a connection between Mary & Elizabeth's pregnancies, but what is it?**

- B) The trip from Mary to Elizabeth would have taken around 3-5 days, depending on conditions of the 80-100 mile trek from the Galilee area (Nazareth, cf. 1:26) to the area around Jerusalem (the hill country of Judea, cf. 1:39, is to the South of Galilee).**

- C) Mary is led by angelic message to seek Zechariah & Elizabeth, but the real reason for the union between these miracles is soon revealed! As soon as Elizabeth and Mary are in proximity to one another, the Holy Spirit of God fills Elizabeth's spirit and causes her baby to leap for sheer joy (1:41).**

- D) John the Baptist's fetal response of pure joy in the presence of Christ is wonderful! It is an affirmation of Spirit filled life in the wombs of both women (1:41, 44). This significantly marks a response of joy in Christ's presence, of Christ's impending birth!**

3) The First Time Miracle Moms Club of Judea

- A) This is the very first outward announcement/recognition of the Messiah, Jesus Christ (1:42-44). Think of the significance! God's (Holy) Spirit is making this first announcement through an unborn child being carried by a barren woman married to a mute husband to a pregnant and unmarried virgin who carries a living blessing who Elizabeth recognizes as her "Lord" (1:43)!**

- B) In the midst of this beyond-human-comprehension 'high point' of God's "stranger things," Elizabeth pours Spirit filled praise onto Mary, a young mother of miracle who is distinguished for her faithful-belief and faithful-action in (quite literally) carrying the fulfillment of God's great promises (1:45)**

Growth Group Guide Week 3 • Luke 1:39-45

Stranger Things: The Judean First-Timer Moms Club

Ice Breaker

- What are some of your fondest memories from your early childhood?

In-Depth

Mary, Elizabeth, and the Holy Spirit

Read Luke 1:39-45

Discuss the characters and events with your group

1. After Gabriel left Mary, do you think it likely she experienced some doubts about what she had heard?

How would the visit to Elizabeth have helped resolve any doubts she experienced?

2. Verse 41: Upon seeing Mary, "Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed..." What is the significance of the Holy Spirit in this event?

3. What does it mean to be "blessed"?

Verse 42-44: List the three (or is it four?) blessings in this passage and their significance:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

Making It Relevant

1. God used the visit to Elizabeth to bolster Mary's faith and eliminate any doubt that He is at work in her life. Have you struggled with doubts about God's working in your life? Has He relieved the doubts, or are you still waiting for His assurance?

Enter into a time of prayer, praying that God would bless with assurance those in your group struggling with doubt.