

In today's readings we see the wondrous miracle of two barren couples, advanced in years, who conceive and bare sons, Samson in the Old Testament and John the Baptist in the New Testament.

They were called by God to bring hope and deliverance at a time of spiritual darkness and difficulty for the people of God.

Many of us have felt that darkness or barrenness, where only God could bring the light. I have experienced dark days in my life where I have felt spiritually bankrupt needing God's intervention! A few years ago when my circumstances left me feeling hopeless and angry, I asked God's help and He restored me.

Later, I was led to sign up for the ChristLife series. Through Discovering Christ, I was finally able to receive God's great love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Following Christ, I learned how to grow my relationship with Jesus, being with Him more in prayer, meditation, daily Mass, and bible study, both by myself and with others.

The sharing Christ sessions, for me, were a life-changer. I overcame fear and God gave me courage to share my faith with others.

I am involved in bible studies, I serve as a Lector and in the Sunday morning Catechesis of the Good Shepherd classes for children. I really try to share Christ with others by the way I live my life. I'm human; I fail, but He is always there to show me the way. The Lord is so merciful, forgiving, and loving.

Jesus taught: "I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who lives in Me and I in him, will produce abundantly." (Jn 15:5)

This Christmas let's provide God the opportunity to make us fruitful by sharing our faith in Jesus and letting others know that He loves them. It's not Christmas without Christ.

Merry Christmas!