

LifeGroup Study Sheet

Dec 17th, 2023 – Believe – Christmas Series

This guide is designed to give helpful questions in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

In this passage, Zechariah heard about the message from the angel and everything that was going to take place with his wife and son – and chose not to believe the news. Have you ever been in a situation where it seemed impossible for you to trust news God was giving you? What were the circumstances around that decision not to believe? Can you relate to Zechariah?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Luke 1:26-37. In this passage Mary decides she is going to choose to believe God and serve. **Verses 28, 30** describe that Mary has received the favor and grace of God. The word “favor” in Greek comes from the root word “charis” which means grace. Mary had been given the **undeserving grace of God**. This similar phrase is also used in other places in the Scriptures. **Read Genesis 6:8, Exodus 33:17** Noah and Moses were also chosen by God and given the undeserving grace of God. If you are a follower of Christ, you have been chosen by God to receive His grace. How do you remind yourself of that truth? How does your heart slip into thinking that you somehow earned God's favor?

Question 2: Read Luke 1:28-29, 35. The angel from the Lord told Mary that she would have the presence and power of God with her! Mary is told the Lord would be with her and the Spirit of God would overshadow her with His power. Imagine the type of faith it would take to believe all the incredible things being told to her. On a regular basis, how do you remind yourself that Jesus is with you? How about reminding yourself of Christ's power?

Read Psalm 73:23-24, 139:7-8, Romans 1:16, 2 Corinthians 13:4

Question 3: Read Luke 1:36-38. By the end of the story, Mary is told to trust God's words and His promises. God's word will always come to pass, without fail. How does remembering that God's word never fails help you to surrender to God's plan in the surprise twists and turns of life? What promises that God tells you in His word are you still waiting on? If the truth of God's word says “God keeps all his promises” is believed and lived out this week in my life, what would look different in my life this week?

Application – Take it Home

Read Hebrews 2:17 *“Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.”*

Jesus was fully human, like us in every respect in His humanity, yet lived without any sin. What Christmas reminds us of is that our God is not one who can't sympathize with our weakness or struggles.

How can this story remind you this season that God uses ordinary people, when they trust and submit to God, to do extraordinary things? How is God asking you to trust Him this Christmas season?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?