

12.11.16 Advent
Discussion Questions

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Questions

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Share a story of when you were prompted by the Holy Spirit to speak words of encouragement or blessing to someone.
2. What is the impact on you when you respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit to speak encouragement and blessing to someone else?

Background

Luke's retelling of Jesus's story begins with the events that lead up to Jesus's birth. Luke takes the time to include the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth and how they came to have a child who would grow up to be John the Baptist. Immediately after her encounter with Gabriel and the Holy Spirit Mary heads to her cousin's house in the hill country of Judea. When Mary arrives Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and speaks blessings over Mary and the child she is carrying.

Read Luke 1:39-45

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. Where did Mary go immediately after speaking to Gabriel?
2. How was Mary greeted when she arrived at Zechariah and Elizabeth's home?
3. Elizabeth knew Mary was going to be the "mother of my Lord"; how was that possible?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. Why do you think Mary went to see Elizabeth? Where would you go if the unbelievable happened to you?
2. When you find yourself in the presence of Jesus how do you respond? Do you jump for joy like John did in the womb?
3. If you found yourself in Elizabeth's shoes how do you think you would have responded to Mary's visit? Remember you are well past child bearing age and you are 6 months pregnant and your husband, who is a priest, is unable to speak.

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. What can you start, or continue doing that will make you someone people trust enough to come to when the unbelievable happens to them?
2. How do you convey joy and wonder when someone brings you unexpected, but wonderful news?

3. What would it take for you to begin intentionally sharing encouragement and blessings with the people you encounter in daily life?

Closing

The Holy Spirit is no less active today than he was 2000 years ago. It falls to us to notice and respond to the amazing things he is doing in this world. Take some time to pray together for eyes to see what the Holy Spirit is up to and the guts to respond with joy and enthusiasm even when it seems as crazy as an old woman getting pregnant and virgin giving birth to the Son of God.

Reminder: During Advent we pause to remember that Jesus came once as a baby to announce the coming of the Kingdom of God. We also look forward to when Jesus will come back this time on the clouds to usher in the new heave and the new earth.