



Sermon Discussion Guide

Faith of Mary - Tim Knipp

December 4, 2022

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

1. What adjective would best describe the state of your heart in this second week of advent? What is one thing that you are looking forward to this week?
2. How would you answer the question that Tim's friend posed: *How would you define faith?* Would your answer depend upon who you were talking to?

Book - Scripture

Pray for the Lord to open your eyes to see and ears to hear and then read the scripture passages from Luke 1 and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:

1. Read **Luke 1:34 - 45** How do Mary and Elizabeth bless and encourage one another in their faith?
2. Read **Luke 1:46 - 56** Mary demonstrates her faith by putting the things God will accomplish through her Son in the past tense. List some of those things.
3. Read **Luke 1:57-66** How do Elizabeth and Zechariah live out their faith in the action of naming their child, John the Baptist?
4. Read **Luke 1:67-80** In Zechariah's prophecy, who are the enemies the Lord will deliver them/us from? What does salvation by faith enable those who trust in the Lord to do? (esp. vs. 74-74)

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.

See if you can recall verse 45: "Blessed is she who has _____ that the Lord would _____ his _____ to her!"

To be blessed is to be connected with God who is the source of all truth, goodness, and beauty in the universe. If you are right with God and connected to God you are blessed, regardless of circumstances.



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Brainstorm some promises from God that you personally have received through Scripture. How can you grow in believing those promises despite circumstances you may be facing right now?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- 1. What are you spending your “one wild and precious life on?” How do you want how you spend your time this week to be informed by your faith?
- 2. If you were honest, what are the things you wrestle with that draw you away from faith? Is there a friend you can seek out this week so that you can encourage each other in your faith?
- 3. What would it look like for you to “serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all [your] days?”

Time of Prayer

Take time to worship the Lord through singing (even acapella) *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. Use words from the Scripture passages we have just read to bless and thank the Lord for visiting and redeeming His people and extending that great salvation to us.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2: 9-10

Pray for one another to have many opportunities to live out our faith in the coming weeks. Pray especially for family or friends who may be wrestling with faith.