

THE ROAD OF FAITH

FACILITATOR GUIDE

NOTE TO FACILITATORS: We know that December is a busy month for your small group members, but we encourage your groups to continue connecting weekly—whether in person or via video conference. It is very important during this time to keep in touch with each other.

The lessons for this series will be much more abbreviated, hopefully leaving more time for open discussion and social interaction. Be sure to emphasize quality fellowship among your group members, making sure that everyone feels that they are a vital part of the group.

Covid has taken a toll on many this year. That means the CPC Connect Groups one of the most vital ministries operating in the church right now! What you do is SO important to the people in your small group—even if they don't realize it.

Encourage your members to attend the weekend services if they feel comfortable in doing so. If not, highly encourage them to watch the service online. Use the lessons to help them better understand what they hear being preached from the pulpit on Sundays. Then take some time to bond together through prayer, sharing, and a good dose of laughter and fun.

As a group leader, you may be the very instrument God uses to keep people close to Him during this season of their lives. Know that you are being prayed for and your work is being noticed.

CPC HAPPENINGS... (Leaders, please share with your group. We want to do everything to keep people connected to the entire church family.)

Christmas Connection

The annual Christmas Connection event will be Sunday, December 13. Please pray for the success of the event, but most importantly, pray for the guests who will be coming to the services that will hear the Gospel presented. AND be sure to let one of the Christmas Connection team members know you appreciate their work on this project.

Christmas @ CPC

CPC is planning for three Christmas service options this year:

Saturday, December 19 @ 5 pm. and

Sunday, December 20 @ 8:45 & 10:45 am. (regular service times)

Baptism Opportunity

As of right now, the next CPC Baptism Service is planned for Sunday, January 10. If you would like to participate, please go to the church website (yourcpc.church/events) to sign up.

Online Service Broadcasts

If you can't make it to a morning worship experience at CPC, we encourage you to watch

online. The services will no longer be streamed on Facebook, but you can watch live on the church website (yourcpc.church/watch). Then click on WATCH LIVE. Or, you can catch the services on YouTube. Subscribe to **YOURCPC** on YouTube. **(Leaders, if someone says they don't know how to get online, please make sure you or someone in the group can help walk them through the process.)**

Would you feel worse if no one showed up to your wedding or to your funeral?

We all want to think that people would love and support us for the really big moments in our lives. Today, we will look at Mary and Joseph and how they may have felt in the biggest moment of their lives.

Luke 1:26-33— In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. 30 Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob Forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

According to Pastor Chris' message, how might Mary's family and her community responded to her situation? [They may have disowned her. She may not have told them for fear of being stoned, so she would've remained hidden.]

If Mary (a scared teenager) came to you for advice, how would you counsel her?

Would you believe her story?

Could you tell her a time in your life when God used a bad situation to accomplish something good?

Why do you think that God’s ways don’t always make the most sense? [It builds our faith more to have to depend on Him. If we could fix our own situations, we would never know and understand what God can do.]

Luke 1:34-37 — Mary asked the angel, “How can this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?” 35 The angel replied to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 And consider your relative Elizabeth—even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.”

In verse 28, how did the angel greet Mary? [“Greetings, favored woman!]

In verse 30, what did the angel tell her? [“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.”]

So according to those words what qualified Mary for such a task? [God’s favor.]

In verse 34, how does Mary disqualify herself? [“How can this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?”] Mary was looking at the situation and deemed it to not make any sense in natural, therefore, she disqualified herself from being worthy.]

Do you think you disqualify yourself from being used by God in great ways? If so, how? [Some answers might be: I don’t have a clean enough past. I’m not talented enough. I’m not worthy. This situation doesn’t seem normal.]

How does God qualify us? [His calling is qualification enough. Jesus’ blood makes us all “clean” and our worthiness is found in Him. God always qualifies the called.]

Pastor Chris said in his message that God understands everything you are going through right now. What words can you think of to describe how that makes you feel?

In Sunday’s message, Pastor Chris stated that God allows seasons of unrest and crisis in our faith so we can...

- have something to gripe about
- [X]** know the strength of our faith
- know where our Bible is
- really think and meditate about it

What does verse 37 mean to you?

Do you think Mary saw this as an honor from God or a hardship? [Perhaps some of both. At first it may have been more hardship, but an assignment from God should always be seen as an honor.]

When something difficult comes your way, do you see it as a hardship or that maybe God is wanting to work through you in the situation? [Remember God may be presenting you with an opportunity to prove your faith, be a witness to someone else, or carry His promises to the world!]

How do you react when God says “no” to your prayers? [Blame God? Accuse Him of not existing? Boycott God and the church? These are ways that make our faith fail. Trusting God in spite of the “no” is allowing our faith to grow.]

What did Pastor Chris mean when he said “We are all pregnant with possibilities?” [God is wanting to do something through all of us. Like Mary, we should trust God through the uncertainties.]

PRAYERTIME

Pray together that God would grow your faith to follow Him through uncertain days.

Ask God to help you find favor in His eyes.

Ask God to accomplish the possibilities that are growing inside of you.