

LEADERS NOTES

This is the "formal" session until the week of January 8/18

Please spend time tonight planning a Get together social as a group over the next couple of weeks.

See You Next Year
- Shannon and Larry Pastors

If You get a chance Listen to THESE new worship leaders
www.cityalight.com
Their Videos Are Free To Watch On The Lower Part Of The First Page or on youtube. - Larry

This material is to spur questions and discussion. Let the Holy Spirit guide the conversation. You DO NOT have to "get through" all the material. But to affirm the "point" of the lesson.

Have People Read most Scripture verses mentioned as you have Time

- Open In Prayer

- Announcements:

Pre Service Prayer Sundays @ 9:50am.

Are U Goin? Ask Yourself and God : WHY NOT?

Christmas Banquet December 9 - **Fundraiser** for The Hub.

The Hub meets a vital need in our area helping people that fall through the cracks of other programs. Come out to hear what they are doing in our Community. **Please Bring Items for donation and Silent Auction**

Christmas Eve Service Dec 24, 5:30

New Years Day Activities at James and Emilys' outside Calmar

Last Weeks Key point: Key Point: Jesus communicates to us through the Holy Spirit. He communicates in different ways. God speaks in various ways to man. Do not limit or quench the way in which the Spirit may speak, by your current or past experience(s).

Follow up and review last weeks What was it about? What stood out? What Impact did it have on you, at work, with your

This Weeks Passages Read aloud: : Luke 1:8-38

Point: That we will accept and welcome the Spirit's voice and direction without conditions and reservations.

Key Question: Do I believe that what the Lord has spoken, He will fulfill? Do I expect, and accept, the Lord's leading, direction and will, spoken of and prompted by the Holy Spirit?

Ask the Group: How do we Hear the Voice of God Today (review question :))

If we are listening and we hear God speaking Why do we hesitate/ Question it?

Zechariah and Elizabeth – Response of Unbelief. Read- Luke 1:18-20
How did they Respond to the Angel Gabriel?

List Ways _____, _____, _____, _____

Was this grieving God? The Holy Spirit? What is it to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit? _____

Read Each of the following points and Discuss separately: ie.: As a group, Rewrite or put these into simpler terms.

- Is to be **prejudiced** toward the way that the Spirit may be manifesting Himself, or choose to manifest Himself, and by not respecting His presence.
- The Holy Spirit chooses to manifest Himself through the mouth of a donkey, i.e. Balaam's donkey (Numbers 22:22-41). Are we okay with that? He speaks to you in an audible voice, will you listen? Would you hear Him? He manifests Himself through a vision or dream? Would you accept it as from God **or dismiss it** as something you ate?
- To quench this Spirit, and His fire (1 Thess. 5:19), is to refuse to respond positively to something that He may be impressing or moving you to do, that may not have been on your radar screen.
- It's the whisper, impression or voice that says, "You need to speak to so and so", "You really should visit with so and so", or "You need to do this".

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The truth is God will ask us to do things that do not make sense. That will possibly make us look foolish. That will be uncomfortable.

That will make us question as to whether we really did hear God or God right.

- Do you think Abraham asked himself the same question when a voice spoke to Him, revealing Himself as God and asking Abraham to go to a place He would reveal to Him? Follow Me to a destination unknown.
- The fact is we all signed up for a destination unknown when we answered the call to "Follow Me", when we believed and received the grace of God in Jesus.
- Remember He said, "Follow Me", and the appropriate response is to stop what we are doing, leave it behind and do His will, obeying His commands.

LIVE IT:

Reflecting on what the Holy Spirit is revealing to you,

What is God asking you to do about today's discussion?

*Who **will you allow** to hold you accountable to this?*

*For you personally, what **do you need to adjust** in your day to put the Holy Spirit more center?*

- To quench the Holy Spirit is to **not** be open and totally **available** to Him and His will. It is to have limited store hours – I am only available during these times Lord and on these days. How much of the Spirit's anointing have we missed because we enforce conditions on our availability to Him? Good thing Jesus' forgiveness was not restricted to only those persons at His crucifixion and resurrection.
- To quench the Holy Spirit is also to doubt or be a double-minded person towards Him. He does not speak today. Did He really ask me to do that? **When we doubt God, the Holy Spirit, Jesus says we should expect nothing from Him.**

It really boils down to this Do YOU or Do You NOT Believe The Holy Spirit Speaks today?

"How long will you hesitate between two opinions?

If Yahweh is God, follow Him. But if Baal, follow him" (1 Kings 18:21).

Yoda: DO or Do not there is no try

Mary and Joseph" (Luke 1:28-32). **Read it Again out loud**

Describe Mary's reactions to hearing this pronouncement - Luke 1:38

- This is what is so remarkable about Mary's response. Man does not want to follow Jesus, we want to follow ourselves. Mary did not. This is what the Apostle Paul says to the Romans in Romans chapter 1 about man's desire and mindset: **Read out loud and discuss the ramifications of these passages in our world today.**
- Romans 1:18-20, 21, 24a

Conclusion – Are you Expecting the Spirit at Christmas?

- The Holy Spirit, above all things this Christmas, wants you to hear Him. He wants you to believe in Him, believe that He speaks to you, wants to visit you in a fresh way. He desires you to expect Him and know Him
- Like the prophet Jeremiah says to the Israelites, who found themselves in personal exile because they forsook the ways of God
- Read Jer 29:10-14

SO what should Our response be?

Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, lived with the expectation that God could show up at any time. They sought the Lord with all their hearts, seeking Him...and they found Him.

Not only did they find Him, as if He was hidden, but they heard Him, obeyed Him and were blessed by Him. Do we desire the same?

Would we, do we, deny, quench the Holy Spirit from working in our lives?

Do we accept the circumstances and situations God puts us in, or allows to happen, without grumbling? How do we handle those difficult, uncomfortable times?

Do we grieve the Holy Spirit with bitterness? Anger? Resentment? Annoyance? With testing?

Do we accept His word? Orders? Desire? His will?

Are WE Listening?

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

-The Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13