

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Portrait of Mary

Week of December 8, 2019

Week 2: Tenacity (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Text: Luke 1:39-45

One of Mary's extraordinary qualities was her tenacity. She was able to press on when things in Nazareth got really tough. To discover the source of her tenacity we need to study her time with Elizabeth. Through applying the lessons from this study, we too can persevere triumphantly in difficult times.

Kicking it off: Jeff confessed his peculiar hobby of collecting old books. Do you collect anything? If so, tell the group about your collection.

Discussion:

1. Reread *Luke 1:39-40* At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

Why was Mary in a rush to see Elizabeth?

2. Reread *Luke 1:41-42* When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!"

How did Elizabeth know about Mary's pregnancy?

3. Reread *Luke 1:42* "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!"

How did this message differ from the message Mary would get from people in Nazareth?

4. Why is it difficult for us to remember our great value in God's eyes when we are going through hardship?

5. Mary was reminded of encouraging truth while in the home of Elizabeth. How can we be reminded of the encouraging truth of all we have in Christ?

6. Reread *Luke 1:56* Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Mary was ready to face the onslaught of degrading messages she would endure in Nazareth. What discouraging thoughts do you find yourself fighting against?

7. Reread Elizabeth's words found in *Luke 1:44* "As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy."

What does this verse tell us about the status of the pre-born?

Wrapping It Up: Pray that the Lord would make the beautiful unseen spiritual reality more and more apparent to us.