

Dig Deeper @Home – “Island of Misfit Toys”

Complement to lesson on 12/24/23 – “A Place for the Misunderstood”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What animal do you think is the most misunderstood and why?
2. Would you rather always misunderstand others or always be misunderstood?

MEMORIZE – Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

READ – Read Luke 1: 26-56

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?
In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. Mary was troubled by the greeting from Gabriel in 1:28. What do you think was troubling about this greeting?
3. What does it mean that Mary “found favor” with God?
4. After being greeted by Elizabeth, Mary utters words of praise in verses 46-55 known as the “Magnificat.” Which of these statements most stands out to you?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Write your own Magnificat

Take time to read the Mary's Magnificat again, verses 46-55. Read it a couple times. Then spend time penning your own poems of praise. You can do this by yourself or with others. You can work on making one together or all make your own and then share them together. One way to do this is to look back on 2023 and recount how God has blessed you, where/when you have experienced His presence and how you've seen or experienced His kingdom come.

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Echo Holy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pz5t7XTCxNE>

What Child is This - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jroBAI3WW8>

Come all Ye Unfaithful - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_bh_gldY_A

Hope has a Name - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DI-fTpLINZ8>

Christmas Hallelujah - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_501eXm57M

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the message:

Almighty God: thank you that even though I am a misfit, I am accepted into your kingdom through Jesus Christ. Fill me with joy and freedom to share this powerful truth with others where I live, work, study and play.