

You Are Highly Favored

LUKE 1:26-38

Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on our Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

OVERVIEW

- o Why did God guide and protect His people in the Old Testament?
- o What questions come up when we read
Luke 1:28, "Greetings o favored one, the Lord is with you" and
Luke 1:30, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God?"

How come Mary DID GET HIGHLY FAVORED BY GOD?

- o What was Mary's background as a young Jewish woman?
- o What can be learned from *verses 31-33* about what Mary was told by the Angel Gabriel?
- o What was Mary's reaction to this information?
- o What did it mean when the Angel Gabriel announced, "She has found "great favors" with God?"
- o Discuss the background of the word, "favored" that Pastor shared with us?
- o How does this information relate to the word, "grace?"
- o What does it mean to have, "the gift of grace?"

- o Who are some OLD TESTAMENT people who have been “highly favored” or “greatly beloved” by God?
- o What do all these people have in common?
- o What do the words, “used for God’s purposes” mean?
- o What does “favored by God” *NOT* mean?
- o Although Mary was “favored by God,” what are some problems Mary still faced?
- o Mary found “favor and grace” in the eyes of the Lord. What did these unmerited gifts from God give her?

APPLICATION

- o How do you/would you react if an angel told you that you are highly favored by God and you are going to be part of something huge to further the Kingdom of God?
- o How did you/do you become “highly favored” by God?
- o How is your walk with God?
- o Mary became a “willing servant” (*Luke 1:30*).
Have you had any experiences where God has taught you to be a willing servant?
- o How do you want to be used by God to fulfill His will on this earth to bless you in His son Jesus Christ?