

Word notes for cell groups week beginning 15 March 2010

Honouring women

Summary:

Read Luke 1:26-38

Sunday was mother's day and a great opportunity to honour mothers, grandmother's, sister's, daughters and aunts.

The story of the angel visiting Mary and the subsequent story of Mary's life is a rich example from which we can learn. These truths are not only for women but also for all of us.

Women of favour

Luke 1:28 tells us that Mary had favour. Favour means being honoured by God and receiving much grace. We too have his favour. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says he who had no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteous of God.

We are favoured because we are saved by Jesus. In Jesus we have:

Significance: - Not from our performance but from who God says we are. Ephesians 2:10

Security: - Not from our status but from what Jesus has done. Romans 8:38

Acceptance: - Not from how we look but from being part of God's family.

Women of devotion

Mary was devoted to the plan of God. Luke 1:38 she said "I am the lord's servant."

Mary's devotion is evident in the bible. She is nearby Jesus when he is on the cross. In Acts 1 Mary is with the disciples in the upper room praying. Across the crowd we see devotion to Jesus and to one another in many forms. We know devotion can be tough and when it gets tough we need to look to God who is with us and will strengthen us.

Women of faith

In Luke 1:38 we see Mary's response – may it be to me as you have said. Mary said this and this displayed her faith in God. She had faith despite her concerns and followed God's plan. Like Mary we may hold concerns. We may feel like giving up or struggle with supporting children, older parents or with the pressures of work.

A well known author said faith is believing in advance what only makes sense in reverse. We can come to God in faith and no that nothing is impossible with God.

The aim here is not to be like Mary! But to be who we are, living our lives in the favour of God, in devotion to him and living by faith in him.

Application:

Select from the following questions, encourage all to take part and be honest. If necessary be prepared to pray.

Questions:

1. What did God say to you and what are you doing about it this week?
2. Do you believe God's favour is on your life? Why?
3. Do you struggle with significance, security or acceptance?
4. If the answer to the previous question is yes please take action to familiarise yourself with bible verse (truths) around what God says about you. The following are a few: Ephesians 2:10, Ephesians 3:12, Romans 8:1, Romans 8:35, 1 Corinthians 12:27. Ephesians 1:5.
5. What or who are you devoted to and how can you be supported in continuing your devotion to this?
6. Is there something that you struggle to have faith in God for? Get others in the group to pray with you.
7. Pray for each other to live lives of faith in God that will lead to faith filled actions.