

CHRISTMAS 2025

All is Calm, All is Bright

Seeks to help you dig deeper into God's Word on your own and aid in your discussion in a Life Group during the week. Follow the simple prompts below in a journal or together in a small group setting. If you would like to join a midweek Life Group, please contact: jon@neighborhoodchurch.com



Nov. 30 — *The Deeper Calm of God's Bigger Plan* (Luke 1:5-25, 57-80)

- **Welcome & Ice Breaker:**
 - *How would you describe your home during the holidays: All is Calm, All is Bright? Run, Run Rudolph? Holly Jolly Christmas? Carol of the Bells by The Tran Siberian Orchestra? When is your heart most calm & most bright during the Christmas Season? What helps you soak in The Savior during the season?*
- **Important Dates:**
 - **MOMS** December 4 @ 9:30-11:30AM • *Making Our Mothering Significant* • Thursdays this Fall • Cypress Campus Worship Center
- **Opening Prayers:**
 - **Hold yourself before the Lord // Psalm 139:23**
 - *What emotions are you feeling as you come to Life Group?*
 - Hold all of yourself out to Him and sit quietly • Allow God to come close to you & care for you in prayer right now • Listen for His voice/presence/leading
 - **Hold what you are holding before the Lord // Psalm 90:17**
 - *What are you dealing with, working on, preparing for?*
 - Hold it out to Him and sit quietly • Allow God to come close to you & establish the work of your hands • Listen for His voice/presence/leading
 - **Return • Recommit • Repent • Reattach to the LORD who is with you // Psalm 139:24**
 - *Draw near to God as He draws near to you*
 - *"...I acquiesce to You Abba Father, to work and pray and seek Your own through me"*
- **Scripture Passage: Luke 1:5-25, 57-80**
 - Begin by reading the passage out loud; even a few times if it is a shorter passage in order to let it settle down inside you.
 - As the Scripture is being read, pay attention to any word, phrase, or feeling that the Holy Spirit may be highlighting to you.
 - Then share what you noticed and/or write down your observations as the Spirit leads.
- **Discussion/Personal Reflection**
 - What challenged you, or stood out to you during your devotional time with the Lord Jesus this week?

- If you were able to hear it, what did the Holy Spirit point out to you personally from Sunday's sermon?

- Read Luke 1:5–7. When you think of your own life, what long-term prayers have you grown weary of praying or holding up to God? How might God be preparing something bigger that you cannot yet see? Have you ever been prepared in the past by God for something you later realized He was doing? How does Elizabeth's patience encourage your own faith?

- Read Luke 1:18–20. What does Zechariah's moment of unbelief teach us about trusting God's bigger story? Where do you find yourself saying, "How can this be?" How has God used moments of doubt to shape your faith? What does Zechariah's restored voice later show about God's grace?

- Read Luke 1:67–80. How does Zechariah's prophetic song invite us into the calm of God's redeeming plan? How does remembering God's faithfulness across generations bring calm in your present circumstances? What song of praise do you want to lift up to God today for His faithful attention, intervention, and restoration in your own life? Write out a prayer below:

- **Closing in Prayer:**
 - Ministries/Missionaries: **Neighborhood Church of Los Alamitos & 1st Baptist**
 - *Pray for Pastor Justin McElderry and Pastor Mike Wilson*
 - *Please pray for the mothers of our community to find a place to connect and care for one another on Thursday mornings, as they receive helpful tools in their journey as mothers and wives.*
 - Consider those who the Holy Spirit may be placing on your heart to pray for • Hold them up to the Lord for His intervening love in their lives • Allow Him to care for them through your prayer right now.
 - *"Lord, who are You putting on my heart today? Who needs a special touch from You in their life? Who can I hold up to You in prayer?"*