

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



Dec. 7 — *The Wider Brightness of God's Promises (Luke 1:26-38)*

- **Welcome & Ice Breaker:**
 - *When it comes to putting together a jigsaw puzzle, what is your strategy? What do you work on first? What do you pay attention to first? When it comes to a word search, what is your strategy for finding the words amongst all the jumbled chaos? When it comes to teaching others about your favorite game, what is your first instruction to them? What do you train them to pay attention to? How does this help them understand the bigger picture of the game? How do their questions help you share your love of the game?*
- **Important Dates:**
 - **Christmas Eve Services** Thursday, December 25 • Cypress Campus @ 4PM & 6PM • Los Alamitos Campus @ 4PM
- **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 1:26-38**
 - 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 1:28–30. Mary is greeted as "*highly favored*," and the angel immediately reassures her, "*Do not be afraid... you have found favor with God.*" What does this reveal about God's loving initiative toward His people—even before they understand or feel ready for what He is doing? Where in your life have you seen God move toward you in love before you felt prepared or worthy?
- Read Luke 1:31–33. The Angel Gabriel describes Jesus as "*great*," the "*Son of the Most High*," the eternal King whose kingdom will never end. How does the promise of Jesus' identity deepen your confidence in the reliability and brilliance of God's promises? What specific truth about Jesus' majesty brings the most comfort or stability to you today?
- Read Luke 1:34–38. Mary's honest question ("*How will this be?*") meets God's loving assurance that the Holy Spirit will accomplish what seems impossible. Her final response is humble surrender: "*Let it be to me according to your word.*" What does Mary teach us about responding to God's overwhelming promises with trusting surrender rather than fearful control? Where might God be inviting you to respond with Mary-like faith in His loving power today?

- **Closing in Prayer:**

- Ministries/Missionaries: *Children's Ministries at Neighborhood Church & their leaders:*
 - *Pray for Pastor Lorena, 65+ volunteers & children attending on Sunday Mornings & Wednesday Nights!*
- 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?"*