

Icebreaker:

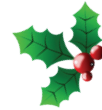
If you had to make something to give as a Christmas gift, what would you make?

Discussion Questions:

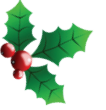
1. What details about Mary's life were new to you this evening? Or what about her life encourages or challenges or inspires you the most?
2. When do you feel closest to God?
3. When you think of surrendering to God, which of the pictures we looked at do your emotions mostly align with, the picture of the soldier or with the picture of Jesus and the lamb? What has been influential in developing the view of God that leads to those emotions?
4. How would you fill in this blank?... The hardest thing for me to hold with open hands is _____.
5. As we grow in our understanding of who God is, we find it easier and easier to trust him, to surrender to him. As we begin a new year, how might you intentionally get to know God better?

Here are some ideas: ☺

- o Be part of the Bible Project Read Through the Bible we're doing at Grace in 2022.
- o Join a small group
- o Make regular church attendance a priority
- o Take a class
- o Set aside time to be still and talk to the Lord
- o Start a plan to memorize Scripture (I love the Bible Memory App)
- o Ideas from your tablemates:



*“Uncommon Courage...
in an Unexpected Journey”
with Mary Schaeffer*



December 13, 2021

Welcome to Ladies Latté!

We are so thankful you have come to Latté - a place where we can connect with each other and Christ over a cup of coffee.

It's oftentimes in the most simplistic, casual settings that we encounter closeness with one another and the Lord.

Our prayer for you is that while the fresh coffee is being poured into your cup, Jesus is pouring out His Spirit in a fresh, new way in your life. With each sip, may you also be drinking in the blessings of fellowship with your sisters-in-Christ.

See you again on January 10th!

Jen Robinson, Latté Coordinator
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“Uncommon Courage...in an Unexpected Journey”

December 13, 2021

Sometimes I'll ask people the question, "Where do you see yourself in ten years?" It's helpful to think about, but the reality is that we really have no idea what kind of turns our lives may take in the days and years to come. If we are willing to frame our lives in the context of _____ and trust him to do what he knows is best, he'll give us courage to face the difficulties life inevitably brings.

We all have to make the decision...am I “the _____” or is God the one who calls the shots in my life?

- When the angel appeared to Mary and filled her in on God's plans for her, her world was turned upside down. This was not at all what she anticipated or planned! But she made a _____ decision that would shape the rest of her life, and responded, *"I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to accept _____ he wants."* Luke 2:38
- She made that commitment _____ _____ _____ how Joseph or others in her family and community would respond. She was young and poor and pregnancy outside of marriage was punishable by death.

As we grow in our understanding of who God is, we find it easier and easier to _____ him, to surrender to him.

- She sought out Elizabeth, who affirmed her for believing God's Word. "...*You are blessed because you _____ that the Lord would do what he said.*" Luke 1:45
- Mary spent time focusing on God and praising Him, rehearsing who God is..."*He shows _____ from generation to generation to all who fear him. His _____ arm has done tremendous things!*" Luke 1: 50-51
- Thirty-three years later we see Mary still faithfully continuing this practice of focusing on the Lord, "*They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.*" Acts 1:14

Cultivating an ongoing practice of remembering God's promises and the ways we've seen him at work builds our faith and courage as we continue to face challenges in life.

- Childbirth is hard; a young woman giving birth to her first baby in an unfamiliar (and uncomfortable?) place, away from her family is very hard! And then the shepherds came and told Mary and Joseph that the angels had appeared and announced the baby's birth and directed them to "the Savior." There was so much for Mary to process! I imagine she replayed over and over again God's promises and the ways she'd seen his faithfulness... *"Mary quietly treasured these things in her heart and thought about them often."* Luke 2:19
- We all have a measure of fear about our unknowable future. Mary knew her future would be filled with pain, but she had already _____ to entrust it to the Lord. *"Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, 'This child will be rejected by many...and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'"* Luke 2:34-35

NOTES: _____

Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged,
for the Lord your God will be
with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9

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You will find Latté messages you've missed online at:
gracecma.org/ministries/women/

BLANKS: who God is; boss of me; radical, whatever; before she knew; trust; believed; mercy, mighty; determined