



## **“The Favor of God”**

### **ICEBREAKERS**

- What excites you about the New Year?
- Do you believe in New Year resolutions?
- What are you expecting for in 2022?

### **OPEN IN PRAYER**

### **MESSAGE REVIEW**

When the favor of God comes, it will shake EVERYTHING up. The goal is to embrace life’s disruptions as the blessing and the favor of God. Times when you thought you were ready to “settle in” in your life, God may change your plans for His time of building and favor. What can sometimes feel like uncomfortable circumstances can be the very door the Lord will use to pour His blessings into your life and the lives of your family. Here are some examples of when favor came in and “disrupted” the lives of Mary, Joseph, Ruth & David.

### **LET’S TALK ABOUT IT!**

- **Read Luke 1:26-33 – Christ Birth Announced to Mary** “Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the

house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

*How was Mary's life "disrupted" when the favor of God was placed upon her?*

*Have you had a life disruption where you can somewhat relate?*

- **Favor is a revealer of the hearts of those around you.**

**Read Genesis 37: 3-4 – Joseph and His coat of many colors.**

Some people will become upset when the favor of God shines in your life. If the people in your life become upset and cannot celebrate you, then you may need to reevaluate your circle. Some may be happy when you speak on the favor, but they may hate it when you walk around wearing it.

- **Favor is when God talks to someone about you.**

**Read Ruth 2:1-10 – Ruth Meets Boaz**

For favor you must be willing to be "seen". Favor when God talks to someone who has the ability to open a door you cannot open. Favor is when God gives opportunities that you would never have been able to receive.

- **Favor Comes to Those Who Are Busy.**

**Read 1 Samuel 16:6-13 – David is Anointed King**

God does not visit those who are lazy in the house of God, He visits those who care about His sheep. David was anointed to be King but had to return to his responsibility as a shepherd. Are you able to know that the Lord has placed a great calling on your life, but you must continue to do a common task until that time comes? The bible said when Samuel anointed David, he did it in the presence of his brothers. God will bless you in front of all the people who did not believe in you.

- **Favor can be removed by God.**

**Read Deuteronomy 1:27**

God can give you favor but you can also fall out of His favor. When we “murmur in our tent” and complain we can forfeit our blessings. Be wise with the words you speak over your current situation. Be mindful of the circle you surround yourself with and what are they speaking about the world and the times we live in. *Have you found yourself in a place of complaining or agreeing with negative thoughts? What can you do to turn that around?*

**PRAYER FOCUS & REQUESTS**

Ask your members if they have any prayer requests or praise reports. Remember to favor each other’s victories and favor of the Lord. You know that it is their turn now but when we celebrate others it will be our turn next time!