



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Light*
Message: *Spotlight*

Scripture: *Luke 1:39-56*

Date: December 15 & 16, 2018

—[LET'S START]—

Pastor Dale began the sermon by showing us a beautifully wrapped gift. Think back to the gifts that you have received in your life. Did you ever receive a gift that was so beautiful that you almost didn't want to open it? Who wraps the most beautiful gifts in your friend or family group?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE:** What happened last week for which you are thankful?
2. **PRAYER:** What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? As a group, take some time to pray. Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work, and pray about the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
3. Read Luke 1:39-56 together as a group. What does this passage teach us about God?
4. What does this passage teach us about people? Think specifically of Elizabeth and Mary. What do we observe about their character?
5. In his sermon, Pastor Dale spoke about Iconoclasts. He referenced an article in Fast Company magazine that says, "Iconoclasts do what tradition-minded people say cannot be done, and they do it by seeing things differently." Dale said, "God is the *ultimate Iconoclast* and when He gets a hold of a person's life, He makes them image breakers too!"

How are God, Elizabeth and Mary seen to be image breakers in this passage?

How can we practice an iconoclastic Christmas, and see Christmas with fresh eyes? How can we look at what Christmas means for today and tomorrow? How can we look at others and ourselves differently?

6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-19. How are you living as a "new creation" since you met Christ? What new things is God creating in you this week?

—[LET'S ACT]—

This week, Pastor Dale encouraged us to see things differently this Christmas. Like Elizabeth, you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit so your soul can recognize Him and leap with joy at His presence instead of always being focused on presents!

Like Mary, you need a mind and heart of faith to believe that in spite of your circumstances the One Who dwells in you is God!

Like Mary, you need to see past your circumstances and onto a better day when, “Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess” that Jesus is the Christ.

This week, talk about which of these three things that you need God to work on in your life. Pray as a group that God would help you to have the mind of Christ this Christmas season. Commit to pray for each other this Christmas season.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- Christmas gives us the opportunity to see things differently, breaking traditional images and getting outside the box!
- God is the ultimate iconoclast. When He gets a hold of a person's life, He makes them image breakers too!
- Elizabeth was an iconoclast in that she saw things differently. The presence of the Holy Spirit in her life allowed her to see prophetically what was happening in Mary's life and her life too.
- Mary had an iconoclastic faith in God that He can do the impossible!
- God's presence is iconoclastic; you cannot truly know Him and not think, see and do things differently!

—[NOTES]—
