



SBSG – An Awkward Christmas: Zechariah & Elizabeth

The Purpose of a Sermon Based Small Group (to be read at the beginning of each gathering)

The purpose of our small group is to actively pursue Christ through relationships, as we worship, serve, and belong together.

READ ALOUD BY ALL (allow this prayer to shape your time together)

Dear God, help me in this dialogue to be humble & suspend judgment. I recognize that we are all created in your image. Give me courage to stay curious about each other by asking questions. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to meet together and in so doing grow closer to you. AMEN

Sermon Series: An Awkward Christmas

Opening question: Have you ever experienced an awkward Christmas / Holiday gathering?

Sermon Synopsis: We all have been at family holiday gatherings that are awkward or even embarrassing. The family of Jesus was no different, Zechariah and Elizabeth were part of Jesus' family and were well liked by everyone including God. But they couldn't have a child of their own and in that time that was embarrassing. Through a series of awkward events God uses them in a powerful way. God can use anyone and any situation to do God's work in the world.

Bible Reading

Reading the Bible is about reading for practice and spiritual formation – spiritual formation, in which the reader seeks to be formed by the Spirit of God.

Passage(s) from the sermon: Luke 1:5-25

What questions do you have about this passage?

Out of all of Jesus' family why do you think God chose Zechariah and Elizabeth?

Discipleship Point: God does extraordinary things through awkward situations and people.

Application: In what ways do you think God will use you or your story?

Accountability: How can your small group hold you accountable this week?

Personal Prayer Request

Share a one or two sentence prayer request with the Small Group for this next week. Remember these prayer requests are about your life not someone else's.

(Sample Prayer)

God, we thank you for your presence with us. We lift up these requests to you knowing that you care deeply about us...we pray for _____ and _____ and (fill in prayer requests) ... God we know that you have heard our request and we release all outcomes to you and your glory. It's in your Son's name Jesus that we pray...**AMEN.**