

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

In this sermon, Pastor Dave Peters explores the theme of "The Set-Up" in Luke 1, highlighting the tension and expectation present in the lives of Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary. The sermon draws parallels between the ancient Israelites' waiting for the Messiah and our own experiences of waiting and tension in life. Pastor Dave emphasizes the importance of recognizing our life's setup and aiming towards our God-given purpose, with Jesus as the ultimate revelation and resolution to our tension.

SHARE

Share a time when you were in a situation of waiting or tension, and how it resolved or did it? How did it feel during the waiting period?

READ

As a group, read **Luke 1:8-20**, **57-66** together out loud.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What most stood out to you about the sermon?

2. How does the tension and expectation in Luke 1 reflect the tension we experience in our own lives today?

3. In Luke 1:12-18, Zechariah's response to the angel's message is one of doubt. What does this reveal about human nature and faith? How can we relate to Zechariah's reaction?

4. Pastor Dave mentioned the contrast between Zechariah and Mary. How does Mary's response in Luke 1:38 challenge us in our faith journey?

5. Consider the theological significance of God naming John and Jesus. What does this tell us about God's authority and purpose in their lives and ours?

6. Pastor Dave spoke about the "set-up" and "punchline" in our lives. Do you have clarity on your set-up and punchline? How would you tell someone about what you know of your set-up (your life) and your punchline (your purpose)?

7. Reflect on the idea that knowing your setup but not your punchline can be uncomfortable. How can we find peace and purpose in the waiting, trusting that Jesus is the ultimate punchline in our lives?

NEXT STEPS:
Identify one area of your life where you feel tension or are in a period of waiting. How can you bring this to Jesus and trust Him to guide you through it? Consider taking a practical step this week to aim your life more intentionally towards Jesus.

Explore the **RePurposed** program at Cornerstone Community Church to discover your life's punchline and purpose. This program is designed to help you understand how God has uniquely equipped you for His mission. For more information, visit **RePurposed**.

PRAY:
Spend time in prayer as a group, bringing your tensions, questions, and areas of waiting before God. Pray for each other to have the courage to step towards Jesus and trust Him with your life's setup and punchline.

CLOSING:
As we continue through the Christmas season, let us remember that Jesus is the ultimate revelation and resolution to our life's tensions. May we aim our lives towards Him and trust in His purpose for us.