

1. Mary – A Call to a Hard Life

- About 14-15 yrs old, engaged, extremely conservative society
- A hard year (pre-birth): Life turned upside-down – Shame? Divorce? Fears?
- The hard years: raising Jesus, losing him for 3 days, Joseph dies(?)
- The harder years: 3 years of Jesus’ ministry – what is he doing?
- The hardest day: watching your son executed
- “Greetings, you who are *highly favoured*”???
- God’s blessings do not always look like blessings
- God sometimes calls his people to live for him in hard circumstances

2. Mary – A God-centred Life

a) You need to know yourself well enough to know you need God

- “Without knowledge self, we cannot know God” John Calvin
- Mary knows that she is a sinner who needs a saviour (Luke 1:47, 2:32)

b) You need to know God well enough to trust him

- Doesn’t spill the problems, instead displays trust in God
- Luke 1:46-55 – Her prayer is full of God’s praise
- Not blind acceptance – prayer reveals she knows the God she trusts
- Also she pondered God’s dealings with her – fed her trust (Lk 2:19, 51)
- Knowing God’s character enabled her to trust him in hard circumstances

c) You need to value God well enough to want to serve him

- Luke 1:38 – “I am the Lord’s servant.”
- She puts God first, above her honour, comfort, goals, understanding
- Can only do that if you value God more than anything else
- Need a high view of God and a humble view of self
- Get that at the cross. Are you putting God first?

3. Mary – A God-blessed Life

a) You will see God provide

- God stepped in and transformed Mary’s circumstances – eg Joseph
- Many perplexing things, many fears about future, but God provides
- The blessing of seeing God provide comes when we trust him, not before

b) You will see God work through you

- Who would have picked Mary for this task – only God
- God uses ordinary people who trust & value him for an extraordinary impact
- As Mary trusted & did very ordinary things, God was at work
 - Great encouragement to parents, to all of us
- “Often God means to use us for his glory in the most ordinary of circumstances” - Lydia Brownback “Legacy of Faith”



Notices

Sun 22nd Evening service at Day Centre NOTE EARLIER TIME 7pm

Tues 24th Bible Study @ Mark & Judith’s 8pm
Men - Disciplines of a Godly Man - Chapter 18
Ladies - Sermon discussion @ Mark & Judith’s

April

3rd-5th Western & Southern Presbytery Weekend
Age 11 up. VENUE CHANGE - Bready RPC
Speaker: John George. Subject: Ecclesiastes
CLOSING DATE: 30th March.
Need to bring Pillow & Sleeping bag

Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, or to refresh your memory, and to find answers to your questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don’t need to know anything about the Bible
- You won’t be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you’re interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

Sunday 29th - Romans 1:1-18

Opening Psalm: 97:1-4

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie
Oversight elders: William Lynch 048 7139 8002 Robert Tait 9101668 Colin Tait 9147352