

Current

God Came for Justice

LUKE 1:26-38

SESSION 6.51



☐ *Prepare in Advance*

Before the Session

- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Review the articles about restorative justice, Australia and Pakistan (links are provided on this session's webpage).

☐ *Introduce*

Invite the group to begin by remembering stories in the news this week of tremendous tragedy and fear. The attack on a school in Pakistan and the attack on a cafe in Sydney, Australia this week are some of the stories that make us wonder about peace and justice. Invite the group to speak aloud one word or phrase from these tragic news stories as a way to make us mindful of hurting people in our world. There may be other news events as well.

As you hear these words about tragic events, think about these words from our text today: "Do not be afraid." Spoken from an angel to a young, pregnant girl, do these words offer hope or offer an impossible suggestion?

Read Luke 1:26-38 aloud. Watch the *Bible Background Video*.

☐ *Discuss*

Invite discussion: "The seemingly impossible becomes possible." There is a school program that seeks to make some moves toward "possible" in an impossible situation: patterns in violent behavior in schools. The program is called "Restorative Justice" and aims make students talk out their behavior choices rather than immediately getting suspensions. Many people have seen good results; many people think this idea won't work. The students talk in a "harm circle" after they do wrong, facing their peers and adult role model.

☐ *Ask*

- Why is this approach a good idea? How does it address problems in a meaningful way?
- Why is this approach a bad idea? What does this approach "miss"?

- The students engage in conversation face to face. What can happen in face to face conversations? How might these conversations move toward restoration?
- Our text lifted up the idea of raising up those who are low. How do you see that idea in the story of the school's circles?
- What does it mean to a person to be heard and given a voice to speak, even if they instigated the violence? What do you think this has to do with the program's name, Restorative Justice?
- Nothing will be impossible with God. In what places do you see the impossible more than you see the possible?

☐ *Pray*

Pray together, beginning with silence. Invite the group think silently about a situation in the world or in their lives that seems impossible. Pray together, inviting people to name these impossible situations, praying for God's peace and hope to transform the situation.

By Erin Hall

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