

NAMES OF GOD

HOW BOASTING IN GOD'S NAME TRANSFORMS YOUR SOUL

Week 12: November 29- December 5

10min Welcome / Introduce Guests / Share Life
Recall the Guidelines / Open in Prayer

2min *Share the Vision: Being a disciple of Jesus means we are being transformed into His image. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us and through us so that we can become more like Him today.*

5min **Hook Question:** When was a time in your life where you felt God was absent from what was happening?

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

2min After the prophet Malachi spoke to the people of Israel, God did not speak to his people for 400 years. These 400 years were very difficult. At the end of the Old Testament, the Persians were the world power and had possession of Israel. The temple, which was the dwelling place of God, was rebuilt under the Persians' rule. But, eventually, the Persians would fall to the Greeks and the Greeks would fall to the Romans.

As each empire ruled, the temple would be destroyed, and the Jews would face evil men of power. Thousands of Jews would be killed over this 400-year period. Their city and temple would be destroyed only to be rebuilt again by the Jewish people. They lived in a time when it seemed all hope had been lost. Despite these tragedies, the Jews believed the promises of God and believed in Jehovah Shammah, our God who is there. One of the promises they clung to was the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, who they believed would deliver them from their captivity. Emmanuel's entry into the world would be announced by a forerunner.

After 400 years of no revelation from God, the Jews were divided and King Herod (of Jewish descent but appointed king by Rome) ruled over Judea. During his rule there was a priest named Zechariah. He and his wife, Elizabeth, were older and righteous before God. Unfortunately, they had no children. One day, Zechariah was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the LORD to burn incense. This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Luke 1:5-25: Remember to change up the storyteller often.
Rebuild the story: Group members retell the story based on what they remember.
Read the story from Luke 1:5-25: Ask the group to read these verses.

12min

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What stands out the most to you about this story?
- What does this story teach us about ourselves?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

- How have you been self-righteous in your past or present?
- What is God speaking to you about through this story?
- Who could retell the story for us? **CHALLENGE:** Tell the story to someone this week!

Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in prayer.