



Week Leading up to 12.20.20: Confidence in Uncertainty

(Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.)

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: LK 1:26-38

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear loving Father, we thank You for always being so willing to calm our fears. Dear loving Mother Mary, we thank you for your submissive heart and showing us your beautiful example of trust and hope. Dear Jesus, we thank You for coming to save us and walking with us in our uncertainty. Dear Lord, it is our greatest desire to lovingly trust in You as Mary did at the Annunciation. In Your Name. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. What do you think/feel it means to be a handmaid of the Lord in this Gospel reading?

YouTube Video: What does God want me to do? – Fr. Mike Schmitz (6:01)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPhjpue3SfQ&feature=youtu.be>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Have you ever felt confused or worried about something that you felt God didn't give clear direction about?
3. Have you ever felt God ask for you to wait or stay in place? Why do you think this was?
4. Fr. Mike indicated in the video that God won't ask you to make decisions based upon what you don't know and that when He calls you to move forward, God will always speak in clarity. Fr. Mike also shared that God has already revealed to you what you are supposed to do right now. Does this change what you think/feel about discerning God's will in your life?
5. Have you ever received confirmation from God after making a decision?
6. Do you agree that we can have certainty that God will walk with us? Have you always felt this way?
7. How can we better learn to be content and confident yet live in uncertainty?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or all}

- To grow closer to God, we can work on being more submissive to His will as Mary was. Make an effort to submit your heart to Gods and unburden yourself through the sacrament of reconciliation.
- Try to serve another by performing a simple selfless act of kindness daily. Consider doing something for which you will receive no recognition.
- Make an effort to read the daily readings and ponder on what God is telling you about trust and fear.
- Before opening your Christmas gifts, say a prayer in great thanksgiving for the birth of Jesus with those you are with.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Dear Lord, as sinners we acknowledge that we live in a world with fear and great uncertainty. We also know that you have given us clear direction on how to be Your loving children. May we always know in our hearts that You are walking with us through the darkness and uncertainty that surrounds us. As Mary did, we humbly submit to Your will and ponder Your power to come into this world as a baby. Shower us with the grace needed to strive toward being the saints you call us to be and rejoice in the celebration of the birth of Your son, Our Redeemer. For Jesus You are truly with us, our Emmanuel! Alleluia. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings}

Sunday Reading 1: 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16; Sunday Reading 2: ROM 16:25-27