

You Can Begin Again

When You Obey God

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – September 10, 2017

1. Open in prayer.
2. Read Luke 1:39-56.

How Do We Obey When Obedience Seems So Hard?

The Backstory: Can you imagine how Mary, a young teenager girl, must have felt when her Jewish community called her a *na'ap* (adulteress) because she was pregnant before she and Joseph were married? According to Jewish law, Mary could have been stoned to death, though this rarely happened (Deuteronomy 22:22-29). Likewise, Jesus would have been known as a *mamzer* (illegitimate child).

- Following Jesus and practicing His kingdom is going to cost us something. Discuss what this means in our lives.

3. Pastor Derwin said, "Remember, God's grace always precedes and empowers obedience and we have to respond by faith." Read and discuss Luke 1:39-45.

4. Pastor Derwin said, "Remember to worship and rejoice in Jesus for His greatness." Read and discuss Luke 1:46-50.

5. Pastor Derwin said, "Remember, you have a sacred vocation in God's story for His glory." Read and discuss Luke 1:51-56.

Note: We, like Mary, are impregnated with the Life of Jesus, and we are called and empowered to allow Jesus to live in and through us. Discuss what this means for us as Christ followers.

6. Close in prayer.

- Share praise reports regarding your experiences with Mission: UIO and pray that God uses it as a catalyst to build relationships in all three regions! Because people matter to God, they matter to us!