

## Dinner Church Christmas week 2: Life Group Discussion Guide: Embracing Divine Favor

### Introduction:

1. Begin with a prayer, inviting God's presence into your small group discussion.
2. Briefly recap the key points from the article, emphasizing the biblical narrative of Mary's favor and its implications.

### Discussion Questions:

#### 1. Understanding Favor

- What does the concept of "favor" mean to you in a spiritual context?
- How do you think Mary's experience with favor reflects the idea that divine favor carries weight?

#### 2. The Timing of Favor

- Share examples from your life or others you know where God's favor seemed to come after a prolonged period of waiting.
- Discuss the idea that favor is not bound by age or circumstance. How does this challenge common perceptions of when and how favor might come?

#### 3. The Response to Favor

- Reflect on Mary's response to the angel's announcement. How can we cultivate a similar willingness to say "yes" to God's plan in our lives?
- Share personal experiences of saying "yes" to God, even when it seemed challenging or uncertain.

#### 4. The Risk of Favor

- Discuss the potential risks associated with divine favor mentioned in the article, such as pride and fear. How can we guard against these pitfalls?
- Share personal stories or insights on how navigating the risks of favor has shaped your spiritual journey.

#### 5. The Outcome of Favor

- Explore Isaiah 61:3-4, 7. How do these verses illustrate the transformative outcomes of God's favor?
- In what ways have you seen or experienced the restoration and joy described in these verses through divine favor?

### Application and Prayer:

1. Encourage each group member to identify an area in their life where they desire God's favor and commit to responding in humility and surrender.
2. Spend time in prayer, asking God for His favor on each member of the group and for the wisdom to navigate the challenges and risks associated with it.