

Nettleham **Methodist** Church - Cell Notes for week beginning 17/12/06 Mary's song

Jeremiah 18:1- 6

Luke 1:46-55

Welcome:

Surprise!! Sometimes life throws big surprises at us. Some are welcome, others less so. Share two surprises you have had one good, one not so good – and share also how you dealt with the surprise.

Worship:

As we approach Christmas today we concentrate on Mary, Jesus mother. She had a really big surprise! Aged about 14 and a virgin – and she was told she was pregnant by an angelic visitor. Consider in quietness how you would have felt.

What would you have wanted to say to God had you been in this situation.

[The men in the group may want to imagine themselves into Joseph's position.]

Bearing Mary in mind read Luke 1:46-55 together.

Word:

Read Jeremiah 18:1-6 – The potter's wheel.

In twos... what do you feel like as you read this story? What does it tell you about God?

Together – does God treat nations this way today? What is he doing in Britain? What is he doing in Nettleham?

Personal – What is he doing in your life? Do you like being 'shaped'? Do you rebel or co-operate?

Compare your response to God's shaping of your life to that of Mary.

A key question in cell studies of the Word of God is 'How does this apply in my life?'

How does what you have looked at so far in this material apply to you? What changes in your life will you have to make as a result of what you have learned?

Witness:

This is a prayerful planning session. You are seeking an awareness of God and of his shaping in the communities in which you live your lives. Remember God loves all.

If God is shaping things in your community how can you co-operate with what he is doing?

What can your cell do together to help shape the pot according to God's will? [This assumes you have some knowledge of what his will is. If not – How can your cell together help to work out God's will? Leaders – days or periods of prayer sometimes with fasting can help. Prayer walking your area can help as well.]

Plan ways in which your cell can find out more of what God is shaping in the places you live your lives.

You may have a bigger vision of God's shaping – for the whole nation, for other nations or for the whole world. Plan ways you can express this.

Cell Leader's Notes

Welcome – the person leading this section could plan a surprise for people as they arrive. Use your imagination.....!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Worship – if you don't want to read the Magnificat together you could find a track from CD with these words and play it whilst people read the words in their Bibles.

Word – A map could be useful as you look at where people live their lives – where their homes are, their work, the schools their children go to and so on. It could help you plan prayer walks.

Witness – the idea is to get the cell making positive plans to be involved in what God is doing. This will need you to be open to God to discern what he is doing. If you do not already have some idea about this you will need to spend time working out what you think he is doing together. Ask people to be quiet and then ask them to contribute to the group a short word of vision, picture or feelings about what God is doing. Bring the contributions together and discern the message of God in the whole.