



Ice Breakers

- Share one chaotic thing that has happened this week.
- Will the next two weeks be more or less chaotic?
- What would be the opposite of chaotic?
- What are you doing to dispel chaos in this busy season?

Read Luke 1:26-38

- Do you sense any chaos in these verses? How about peace?
- List some facts from this story. Reread the verses.

3 Important Facts

Read Luke 1:28 & 30 again

²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. "

- Mary was "highly" what?

FACT #1—MARY WAS FAVORED!

- What is your favorite car you have ever known? What made it your favorite?
- What is your favorite college football team? Why?
- What are your favorite two foods?
- Now share which one you would choose if they were side by side.

Read Luke 1:25, 43

²⁵ "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

- What does this tell us about Elizabeth?

Read Luke 1:28, 30 again

²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. "

- Mary was what?
- So why does God seem to favor some over others?

NOTE: Favor can be described as an "approval" of God, a "blessing" from God, a "benefit", or GRACE! Grace = "unmerited favor."

- What does this mean?
- Did Mary and Elizabeth deserve this "favor"?

NOTE: God favors His own! There is a difference between a "child of God" and a "creation of God." All have been created by God and there is love and grace shown to all His creations. But, not all have chosen to be a "child of God" There are blessings and benefits and favor that comes to those that are sons and daughters of God!

- Do you show "favor" to your family over other people's family? Are you more likely to buy your kids something they need over buying someone else's kids something?
- We favor those that are our own!

Read Luke 1:27, 34

²⁷ to a **virgin** pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The **virgin's** name was Mary.

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a **virgin**?"

FACT #2—MARY WAS INCAPABLE!

NOTE: The word "virgin" appears three times in these two verses.

- Was Mary capable of having a child on her own?
- So what are the two ways she could have become pregnant?
- Why is the virgin birth so important to what we believe?

Read Luke 1:35-38

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

FACT #3—MARY WAS OVERSHADOWED!

- What does this mean?

Read Matthew 17:5

⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright **cloud** covered them, and a voice from the **cloud** said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Read Mark 9:7

⁷ Then a **cloud** appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the **cloud**: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Read Luke 9:34

³⁴ While he was speaking, a **cloud** appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the **cloud**.

- When it says the cloud "covered" them, this is the same word used for "overshadowed". Mary was enveloped, covered, consumed by the Holy Spirit.



- Have you ever had an experience with the Holy Spirit where you were "overshadowed"?
- How is this like sanctification (filling of God's Spirit)?
- Did the Holy Spirit just take over her life without her permission?

Read Luke 1:38

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

- Do we have to choose to be overshadowed?

Application

Ask yourself...

- I am ... favored? How?
- I am ... incapable, on my own, of being what God wants me to be and do.

Do I need to be overshadowed?

- Someone be transparent and share your answers with the group.

I AM THE
LORD'S SERVANT
*May it be to me
as you have said*
From LUKE 1:38
Trinity T. Eddle