



The Week of December 13, 2020
Luke 1:26-38
Conversation Guide

Intro Questions

- How's the Christmas shopping going?
- What are the gifts you hope to get this year?
- Have you ever recieved a gift that turned into a gag gift?

Bible Discovery

- Listen carefully as a member of the group reads Luke 1:26-38 aloud.

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end." Mary asked the angel, "How can this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?" The angel replied to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. And consider your relative Elizabeth – even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless. For nothing will be impossible with God." "See, I am the Lord's servant," said Mary. "May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

- Have another member of the group retell the story in their own words.
 - Thank the reteller of the story and then ask the group if they missed anything.
 - What does this passage tell us about Jesus?
- Read Luke 1:28-31.

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 - How does the angel encourage Mary? Have you ever experienced God's grace or favor in an unusual way? Talk about it. How did it feel? How did you respond?
- Read Luke 1:30-33.

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 - How do Gabriel's words to Mary indicate that God is doing something profoundly new in the birth of Jesus?
 - What four things did Gabriel say God intended for Jesus?
 - What do these four things have in common?
 - What power did kings have in the ancient world? What would it mean to have a king whose kingdom would never end?
- Read Luke 1:34-35.

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 - How do you suppose Mary felt about the angel's message foretelling her supernatural pregnancy? What would have been the hardest to comprehend?
- Read Luke 1:38

"See, I am the Lord's servant," said Mary. "May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

 - What can you do to maintain a servant's attitude in your day-to-day living? In what ways can you develop the kind of humble spirit that Mary had?

- What progression do you see in Mary's responses in verses 29, 34, and 38? How does Gabriel answer her question about how this could happen (verses 35-37)? Have you ever experienced going from confusion to questioning to faith? What was the situation?
- Read these words from Pastor David.

"We're on the brink of a brand new year. It starts in just a couple of days. A new year is a great time to set yourself on a different course. This Christmas make the pledge, the promise to your king. No more games. No more excuses. Promise to live for the king of kings with passion and with perseverance. Promise to submit to his leadership, to follow his paths to trust in him as your king. This year I will worship faithfully. This year I will learn about my king: Bible reading, group life, church involvement. This year I will expand the kingdom: I will give my time to extend his fame. This year I will worship Christ as my king."
- Read Philippians 2:5–11

Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross. For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— in heaven and on earth and under the earth— and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- Are you reading your Bible daily?
- What are some things you can do to expand God's kingdom?
- How can you give your time to extend His fame?

