

~~Impossible~~ Christmas

Week 3- Mary's Story

Luke 1:26-56

Check out one of these helpful resources:

Christmas – RightNow Media: <https://bit.ly/3lQKhbm>

Emmanuel – RightNow Media: <https://bit.ly/4f0dky0>

Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ – Timothy Keller:
<https://bit.ly/3Vo3yOW>

Allow God to speak to you through his written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

KNOW (Build Relationships)

- Share about a time when you received unexpected news that changed your life's direction, similar to Mary's encounter with Gabriel. How did your faith influence your response?
- When have you experienced God calling you to something that seemed beyond your capabilities? Like Mary, what gave you the courage to say "yes"?
- Who has been an "Elizabeth" in your faith journey - someone who encouraged and confirmed God's work in your life when you needed it most? What made their support meaningful?
- Reflecting on Mary's Magnificat, share about a time when God's faithfulness made you want to burst into song or praise. What specifically moved you to worship?
- Like Mary, when have you had to trust God's timing even when it didn't match society's expectations? How did you maintain your faith during that season?
- Mary recognized God's work in her life as part of His larger plan of redemption. When have you seen your personal circumstances connect to God's bigger purposes?



GROW: (Grow Spiritually)

- In Luke 1:26-27, we meet Mary, a virgin from Nazareth. When Nathanael later asked, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46), he reflected common prejudices of his time. Considering 1 Cor. 1:27 that "God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise," how does God's choice of Mary challenge our assumptions about whom God uses?
- The angel greets Mary with "O favored one, the Lord is with you!" (v.28-29). Reflecting on Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 12:9 that God's "power is made perfect in weakness," how might this greeting have both encouraged and challenged Mary? How does it challenge us?
- Gabriel's promises about Jesus in verses 30-33 connect to prophecies in Isaiah 9:6-7 and 2 Samuel 7:12-13. As Luke 1:37 declares, "No word from God will ever fail." How do these connections to Old Testament prophecies strengthen our confidence in God's faithfulness?
- Verse 35 describes the Holy Spirit's role in Jesus' conception. Zechariah 4:6 reminds us it's "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts." How does this shape our understanding of how God works through ordinary people?
- Mary's response in verses 38-45 exemplifies humble faith. As Oswald Chambers writes in "My Utmost for His Highest," "Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading." How does Mary's example challenge our own response to God's calls?
- The Magnificat (verses 46-55) echoes Hannah's prayer in 1 Sam. 2:1-10, showing Mary's deep knowledge of Scripture. How does her declaration that God "has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate" (Luke 1:52) reflect God's consistent character throughout Scripture?
- Mary's praise in verses 54-55 connects to God's covenant promises beginning with Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3). As 2 Cor. 1:20 affirms, "all the promises of God find their Yes in him." How does this connection between Old Testament promises and their fulfillment in Christ strengthen our faith?
- Mary's visit to Elizabeth demonstrates the importance of Christian community. John Stott notes that "The Christian life is not meant to be lived in isolation." Jesus himself promised in Matthew 18:20, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." How does their interaction model godly encouragement?



SHOW: (Live on Mission)

- Mary responded to God's call with "I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). What specific area of your life needs this kind of surrendered obedience this week? Following Col. 3:23, what tangible step will you take to "work heartily, as for the Lord"?
- Mary immediately went to support and celebrate with Elizabeth. Who in your community needs your encouragement or presence this week? How will you intentionally reach out to them?