

# THE REAL CHRISTMAS STORY

## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

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November 29 & 30, 2022

**SERIES:** The Real Christmas Story

**MESSAGE:** Mary As A Vessel

**TEACHER:** Lisa Colmus

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

**BOTTOM LINE:** Following Mary's example, you too can find favor with God!

### **BIBLE BACKGROUND | LUKE 1:26-38**

vs. 26-27: "The 6th month"= the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy

Nazareth was a small town. (Greek has no word for city)

"Betrothed" was more binding than an engagement today; only a divorce would break it.

28-29: In her modesty, Mary didn't understand why an angel would greet her with such exalted terms.

30-31: "Gabriel is saying simply that God's favour rests on her."

Jesus' name meant "The Lord is Salvation." (See also Isaiah 7:14)

32-33: Gabriel says that Jesus will be great, and goes on to set Him apart as the Son of God. Giving Him the throne of David references the Messiah, who is to come from David's line. (See 2 Samuel 7:12; Psalm 89:29)

34: Mary was puzzled as to how she would conceive a child without a man's involvement.

35: "Gabriel makes it clear that the conception will be the result of a divine activity." Because of this the child would be holy, and the Son of God.

36-37: Mary is encouraged by Elizabeth's pregnancy, seeing that nothing is impossible with God. (Genesis 18:14)

38: "Mary's response is one of quiet submission." She would act with complete obedience to God. She recognized and accepted the will of God, even though Joseph could have divorced her (Matthew 1:19) or she could have received the death penalty for adultery. (Deuteronomy 22:23-24) This passage shows her quiet heroism.

Source: "Luke" by Leon Morris (Tyndale N.T. Commentaries)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Girls: How would you have reacted to this type of news from an angel?

Guys: How would you have felt if this news was delivered to a woman that you were engaged to?

2. Mary was very possibly a teenager herself.

What do you think about the fact that God chose a teenager to be the mother of Jesus?

What does this show us about how important we can be in God's plan for the world, even at a young age?

3. When Mary replies to Gabriel, she doesn't ask why she was chosen, but only how it would happen.

Why do you think this is?

Why is her humble obedience to God so important to this mission?

4. Why do you think God chose Mary as a vessel for the birth of Jesus?

What were some qualities she had that were important to God?

What are some ways we can work on having these qualities in our own lives?

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 & 8;

What are some practical ways that we can honor God with our vessels (bodies)?

What are some obstacles to this in today's culture?

Are there any parts of your life's "vessel" that could use some cleaning up?

6. What are some ways that we can be prepared to share the Good News about Jesus with others? (Ex. reading the Bible, prayer, etc)

If you felt God calling you to share it, would you be ready and obedient to that calling or hang back because you didn't feel ready?

What are some ways you could practice sharing it with others or people you could practice with?