

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

- LUKE 1:38a

FELLOWSHIP

(Start the conversation and get to know more about the people in the group. You can choose to answer one question.)

1. *What was the best news you have ever received?*
2. *What is one exciting thing you would like to try doing?*

MEDITATE AND PROCLAIM

(Scripture to be gleaned from and how we can apply the Word in our lives and encourage others to do the same)

For this lesson, we will learn how Mary responded to the news that she will be the mother of Jesus - our Saviour and Lord.

DO NOT BE AFRAID

But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." - LUKE 1:29-33

Mary did not only receive news that totally surprised her but received it through someone she did not really expect - an angel of the Lord. Sometimes, God provides answers to our prayers in ways that we do not expect. But we should always trust His ways in His time. God gives us His best and He is never late.

DISCUSS: WHAT IS ONE BLESSING THAT YOU RECEIVED BUT CAME IN THE LORD'S UNEXPECTED WAY?

NO WORD FROM GOD WILL EVER FAIL

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." - LUKE 1:35-37

God is a promise-keeping God. He promised His people Israel through the prophet Isaiah - "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." And that same promise is true for us as we place our faith in Him. God is always faithful and He will never fail. We can trust Him.

DISCUSS: WHAT ARE YOU BELIEVING GOD FOR THIS SEASON AND THIS COMING YEAR?

I AM THE LORD'S SERVANT

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. - LUKE 1:38

Mary's response to the news that will change her life forever was to worship and to humbly say "I am the Lord's servant." To accept Jesus as our Saviour and Lord means to obey His will and submit to His authority. In our lives, Jesus should be Lord of All and not "Lord-not at-all." Allow His grace to continue to work in areas of our lives not yet totally surrendered to Him. Then we can totally and humbly say "I am the Lord's servant... May your word to me be fulfilled."

DISCUSS: ARE THERE AREAS OF YOUR LIFE THAT YOU NEED TO SURRENDER TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS? PRAY FOR HIS GRACE TO FILL YOU AND EMPOWER YOU TO DO SO.

Mary could have been distressed about what her reputation will be if people began questioning her “unplanned” pregnancy. But she trusted God’s will and ways and became a vital part of God’s redemption story for the world. She worshiped, glorified God and humbly submitted to His will. Mary bore God’s son. Mary became the mother of Jesus - the Saviour of the world.

PRAY

(Remember to do this. Pray for one another; for everyone to live out the Word and for any other specific prayer needs)

Ask the Lord to grow you as you surrender to His Lordship. He has the best in store for you! Pray for boldness to share the Gospel and your story of redemption, especially during gatherings this Christmas season.



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