

# LUKE 1:26-38, 46-56

11 DECEMBER 2022

ICE BREAKER: What is a gift you'd like to receive this Christmas?

## LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

The Lord calls Mary to the most **extraordinary calling** ever given to mankind—to become the **mother** of God's own Son. Think of how **incredible** that calling is, how almost ridiculous that sounds. How do you raise God's own Son in your home? All the angels of heaven watch your every move, knowing the fate of humanity is being determined in your home!

### 1. How has God ever called you to **do something** that was **difficult**, even almost **ridiculous**?

(Read verse 34-38, 46-47) Mary's response to God's amazing call on her life is predictable. "How will this be...since I am a virgin?" If Mary first doubted God, imagine what others were thinking or saying about her when she told them she was pregnant, though she is still a virgin. And that her child is God's own Son. Imagine the inevitable **ridicule** and **gossip** surrounding her pregnancy.

So how does Mary respond? She accepts God's call on her life, "I am the Lord's servant." Then she **sings**. She worships the Lord proclaiming, "My soul **glorifies** the Lord and my spirit **rejoices** in God my Savior!" In the face of God's most incredible calling upon her life, Mary blesses God for choosing her and rejoices. She **does not worry** about **what other people think**.

### 2. In **doing** what you know to be **right**, how do you **handle** the **opinions**, even **ridicule from others**?

(Read verses 51-53) Our world **values** the **confident** and **outspoken**—those who sound like they know what they are doing. The world values **rulers** and those in **high position**—those with power. It values and copies the behavior and fashion of the **rich** and **famous**.

However, Mary declares that God **values** the **opposite**. He is "**mindful** of **servants**" (48), but **scatters** "those who are **proud**" (51). "He has **brought down rulers** from their thrones, but has **lifted up** the **humble** (52)". "He has **filled** the **hungry** with good things but has **sent** the **rich away empty** (53)."

### 3. How do you see the **conflict** between what the **world values** and what **God values** in your **daily life**?

(Read verse 46-49) Mary was **amazed** that the God of the universe was "**mindful** of the humble state of his **servant**." God was mindful of her, a servant girl. In effect, Mary testified to these truths. **God sees us**. He sees us **where we are at**. He sees us in our **poverty**—all those areas where we are poor. We may be lacking in finances, possessions or education. We be lacking in friends, family, or love. It does not matter. In our poverty, God sees us. Not only does He see us, **He is doing something about it**.

God is preparing to **bless us** in our poverty so that with Mary we may also testify, "From now on all generations will call me **blessed** for the **Mighty One** has done **great things** for **me**—holy is His name."

### 4. How have you ever seen God do **great things** in areas where you are **lacking** or **struggling**?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

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PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Jesus with this week or invite to Celebration.)

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