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Group Guide

Mary: A Faithful Song

December 10, 2023

Main Passage: Luke 1:26-56

Theological Theme

God wants to use His people to do great things. Even in extremely difficult or life changing moments, we can trust in the Lord. Mary expressed her faith in worship following a very unexpected announcement from the angel Gabriel.

Introduction

- ❓ Who is a teenager you know about who has made a difference in some way? Why do you think some people are surprised to see teens doing big things?
- ❓ When have you been encouraged to see young people involved in great works of God?

1. A Surprising Encounter (Luke 1:26-33)

Last week, we read of the angel Gabriel announcing the coming birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah. In today's text, Gabriel showed up again a few months later with an even more miraculous announcement. God sent him to a relatively unknown town and an unsuspecting betrothed young woman named Mary. Betrothal was the second stage of the marriage process and was a more binding agreement than our idea of engagement. Although a betrothed couple was bound together with promises and commitment, they were not intimate with one another until after the marriage ceremony. The betrothed woman would also still reside with her family until the bridegroom came to get her and the official marriage took place.

- ❓ The news the angel brought was amazing. But it also could bring Mary fear. What could be fearful about this announcement?
- ❓ Mary found favor with God. How have all who have trusted in Jesus also found favor with God? Do you typically view yourself as favored by God? Why or why not?
- ❓ Application: When was a time you heard from the Lord unexpectedly? How did you respond?

2. A Godly Response (Luke 1:34-38)

Many reactions would have been understandable for Mary in this moment. Mary didn't panic. She didn't bombard the angel for more details. Mary asked one logical question: How can it be since I am a virgin? Mary's question didn't show a lack of trust but awe-filled wonder. When God works around us and uses us for His purposes, one right response is wonder.

- ❓ What questions would you have been tempted to ask in that moment if you were Mary?
- ❓ When was God's work in your life affirmed by others who also experienced God working in them?
- ❓ Application: Where do you need to be reminded that nothing is impossible with God?

3. A Faithful Song (Luke 1:39-56)

Following the visit from Gabriel, Mary went to visit Elizabeth to confirm the report about her being with child. Mary found Elizabeth just as Gabriel had said, the child in Elizabeth's womb leaped, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. This was further confirmation of the news Gabriel brought Mary.

- ❓ How does reflecting on God's attributes affect the way you worship?
- ❓ What contrasts or role reversals did Mary make in this passage? What does this indicate about the kingdom of God and Jesus's purpose in coming to earth?
- ❓ Application: How has God caused you to wait on Him? What lessons have you learned in God's "waiting room"?

Conclusion

God still desires to use His children to do His work today. We each have opportunity to respond like Mary when we face challenging situations that the Lord wants to use for His glory. Each person must make this choice. Will you choose to trust our all-powerful, merciful, compassionate, and loving God, or will you place your trust in yourself and things of the world that will never satisfy? Mary was an ordinary teenager, but God used her to bring about the most important event in the history of the world.

- ❓ How is God calling you to respond to Him in faith and obedience as Mary did?
- ❓ How can we as a group encourage this type of response in one another?
- ❓ How will living this way give us opportunities for gospel conversations with others?