



Growth Group discussion questions for Luke 1:26-45
Week of December 9-12, 2018

1. Scripture memory: Review, meditate on, and be ready to recite Ephesians 2:1-10.
2. Carefully read Luke 1:26-45 at least twice.
3. Study the contrasts between Gabriel's appearances to announce the births of John (Luke 1:5-25) and Jesus (Luke 1:26-35). Compare the recipients' genders, age, marital status, and their response to Gabriel. What conclusions can you draw about whom God uses to execute His will? In God's plan, is there just one kind person that He can use? Is there a reason that you've thought that God cannot or will not use you in His plans?
4. What does verse 29 tell us about Mary's inner thoughts when greeted by Gabriel? Look also at Luke 2:19. How did Luke get this information about what Mary was thinking? (See Luke 1:1-4) What does this tell you about the accuracy and authenticity of this account in the gospel?
5. What does Gabriel say will happen to Mary? Do you think her question to him in verse 34 represents doubt or clarification of his word? Why would she ask this? If Mary's mind was contemplating what she needed to do to have this promised son, how did Gabriel explain that she needed to do nothing (see verses 35, 37)? Is Mary the primary actor in this redemption story? If not, who is?
6. Why did Gabriel tell Mary that the child should be named Jesus? (See Matthew 1:21) What else did the angel tell Mary about her child? (See verse 32-33). How is this message a fulfillment of God's promise of salvation to His people? (See 2 Samuel 7; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 33:14-18; Daniel 2:44; 7:14, 18, 27; Revelation 11:15).

7. Was Gabriel's message to Mary one of pure privilege or did it come with a personal cost to her? What costs do you think Mary could experience? Do you believe Mary anticipated difficulties in the moment the angel told her what was going to happen? Should the horror of scandal have tempered her response? Do you sometimes fear what God may ask you to through? How do fears impact you when you know God may take you through something tough?

8. A mother who submits to the will of God marks the beginning of Jesus' life. How did the end of Jesus' life mark his obedience to the will of God? (See Luke 22:42; Isaiah 53:10; Philippians 2:8) In what ways should these examples of obedience influence you? (1 John 2:3-6, 5:2-3)

9. While Roman Catholicism and Protestantism disagree over the place and function of Mary, most people agree on the suitability of the title given her by the early church, 'Mother of God.' What does this title mean? What does it not mean? How would you respond to those who over elevate Mary's role in redemptive history? (See Luke 1:45-47; Matthew 13:55; Luke 11:27-28; 1 Timothy 2:5; Acts 10:25-26).

10. Why do you think it was important to Mary to visit her relative Elizabeth? (See verse 36-37, 39-40). Describe how Elizabeth greeted Mary. Why does Elizabeth refer to Mary as "the mother of my Lord"? How does she know this? (See verse 41)

11. What is John's reaction to the voice of Mary and her child? (See verse 41, 44) If John was marked by God for a purpose (verse 16-17) and was attuned to the spirit (verse 41, 44) while in the womb, what should our view of the unborn be? What implications does it have for us?

PRAY IN THE GROUP: In this Christmas season, pray that that we do not miss opportunities to abide in Jesus. Pray that we lead focused and dedicated lives that examine the meaning of the incarnation and not let the good things of Christmas distract us. Pray that the images, songs, and messages of the season focus the minds of unbelievers on their true meaning.