

BIG IDEA

Saying yes to God opens the door to the impossible.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

What is your favorite movie? What is it that you love about it?

Read Luke 1:5-20 and Luke 1:26-38. Compare and contrast the responses of Zechariah and Mary. Why do you think Luke chose to tell the story the way he did?

Zechariah asked "How can I be sure?" Mary asked, "How can this be?" Reading these stories back to back really highlights the trust and obedience displayed by Mary in contrast to the lack of trust and need for certainty displayed by Zechariah.

What is significant about God's choice of Mary as the mother of Jesus?

Read Luke 1:46-55. What key words stand out to you in Mary's song? What does Mary's song reveal about her understanding of the incarnation?

Mary expresses a sense of vindication in her song. She anticipated that Jesus coming into the world would usher in the justice, mercy and faithfulness of God. Mary was a young girl, likely living in poverty under the oppression of Rome, so this was extremely good news!

Where in this story do you see God doing what seems impossible"? Generate as many ideas as you can.

Let's start with the obvious. It seems impossible that a virgin would conceive and give birth, let alone that this child would be the very presence of God with humankind. We should also consider how unlikely it would be that God would choose someone like Mary to be Jesus' mother. He could have chosen someone with higher status, more money, or greater resources. Instead, he chose Mary. It also seems pretty impossible that Mary's betrothal to Joseph would survive this scandal.

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

What criteria do you use to determine whether someone is favored by God? How does your criteria compare to God's?

Re-read Luke 1:28. Imagine yourself in Mary's position. What is your response? How easy is it for you to believe that you are "highly favored" by God? Why?

Dig deep. Where in your life do you believe that God cannot do the "impossible"?





LIFE GROUPS

LEADER GUIDE

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

How would you live differently if you saw yourself as “highly favored” rather than as disqualified?

Has God been laying something on your heart lately? What is it? What are you going to do about it?

Read Proverbs 3:5-6. In what ways are you relying on yourself? Is there room in your life for God to speak to you? What are some changes you can make this week in order to be more accessible to God?

Commit to memorizing this passage between now and next week.

Check in with your Life Group members next week to see how they do with this challenge. You can even make it fun by introducing some friendly competition! Whatever you do, encourage your members to follow through on this. Committing the scriptures to memory helps us to rely on God more as we go through our day-to-day lives.

