

LUKE 1:26-30

- › Describe Mary's initial reaction to the angel Gabriel (v. 29). Why do you think she reacted this way?
- › How did Gabriel respond to her fears? How might Gabriel's declaration in verse 30 have given Mary the hope and courage she needed to embrace the message she was receiving?

LUKE 1:31-33

- › What do these verses tell us about Jesus—who He is and what He came to do?
- › What does the name "Jesus" mean? What does this tell us about Jesus' mission? What can we infer from this about our mission as His followers?

LUKE 1:34-38

- › Discuss the significance of the virgin birth of Jesus. What difference does the virgin birth make? Why was it necessary?
- › What does the virgin birth confirm about Jesus' identity?
- › Read verses 35-37 again. What insight did the angel give Mary into God's mysterious work in her life?
- › How did Mary respond to Gabriel's announcement? What can we learn from her response?

CENTRAL TRUTH

Jesus is worthy of full devotion—He is our Savior, God, and King.

NOW WHAT?

- › What does it look like for us to live in awe of Jesus? Why is this necessary as we live on mission for Him?
- › What is one area in your life where you need to trust God and submit to Him like Mary did? What next step do you need to take to trust God in that area?
- › How should the reality of who Jesus is (Son of God, everlasting King, Savior, etc.) shape the way we live? Have these realities shaped your life this week? If not, what needs to change in your life?
- › Do you think of yourself as God's slave? Why or why not? What is one step you will take to humble yourself before God and rely fully on Him?

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Read Philippians 2:1-11 and Colossians 1:15-21. Then make a list of everything these passages tell us about who Jesus is and what He came to do. When you are finished, journal a prayer of praise to God thanking Him for sending us the perfect Savior.
- › **Memorize:** Luke 1:32-33
- › **Pray:** Thank God for loving us so much that He willingly took on flesh in order to dwell among us, serve us, die for us, and ultimately rise victoriously for us. Pray that the example Christ gave us of humble self-sacrifice would empower us to take authentic steps toward living fully and passionately on mission for Him. Ask God to help you to redirect the focus of your life away from yourself and to the praise, glory, and fame of Jesus Christ.

KEEP ON DIGGING

Read the following passages, then journal a sentence or two about what each tells you about Jesus. How might having a greater awareness of these truths about Jesus empower us to live on mission for Him?

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| › Psalm 110 | › Philippians 2:5-11 |
| › Isaiah 9:6-7; 53:1-12 | › Hebrews 1:1-14 |
| › John 1:1-18 | › 1 John 1:1-4 |