



Small Group Study Guide for December 12, 2021

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Mary was not yet married when the Holy Spirit conceived in her the Son of God, making her to be the Mother of God. We make plans based on what we think we can do. God makes plans based on His infinite power and grace. Humility is key to following God's grand design.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. What are the plans you have made so far to celebrate Christmas?
2. Sometimes our plans change. What is your initial reaction when plans change? (optimistic, pessimistic, frantic, calm, resist change, embrace change, pout, make the most of it)

In the Word: Read Luke 1:26-38

3. Luke, the historian, is providing A LOT of details in verse 26. What are all the details that he records for us?
4. What is Mary's response to the angel (29) and how do you think you would have reacted if you were in her shoes experiencing that moment?
5. There are a lot of details about Jesus in the words of Gabriel. What are all the details that are mentioned in verses 31-33?
6. Gabriel concludes with an amazing statement and promise in verse 37. What does he say, and why is that such an important promise?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

7. When is a time in your life when you had to really hold onto the promise in verse 37?

8. All of this was unplanned for these couples, and yet God chose to work through the unexpected birth of these baby boys to accomplish His plan of salvation. How does that help us to trust God when things happen that are 'unplanned' and unexpected?

9. An unplanned pregnancy can be very disruptive to life, as it was to Mary and Elizabeth. How can Christians come around pregnant women going through an unplanned or difficult pregnancy with compassion and help, while affirming the value of the little life growing in the womb?

10. Mary had a reply of faith and trust in the Lord when she said, "I am the Lord's servant... May it be to me as you have said." How can we mimic Mary's faith when the unexpected happens, and where is God calling you to have a humble servant's heart?

Prayer: Ask God to give us a humble, servant's heart, especially when we face the unexpected, and to trust in God's mighty power and His ultimate plan of redeeming and saving the world through Christ. Ask God to bless and strengthen our witness to Christ during this Advent and Christmas season, so that we can point people to 'the reason for the season' in all that we do. May many more people come to know the Hope of the nations and Giver of eternal life!

Next Week: We look at Joseph, and the unwanted scenario with Mary almost made him divorce her quietly, sending her and the baby away. But by God's intervention, Joseph saw his role in God's redemption plan and welcomed Mary and the child into his heart and home.

Note: There is a [Advent Devotion Video](#) that will be shared again via email and FB on Wednesday, December 15.

Christmas Eve Worship is at 4, 7, and 10 p.m.

4 p.m. is led by praise band, 7 p.m. has organ, bells, brass, choir, etc., 10 p.m. is organ and strings.

All three have Holy Communion and Candlelight Ceremony.