



Small Group Study Guide for December 7, 2025

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: Peace is more than the absence of conflict. It is wholeness and restoration, life to the fullest. Our world is unsettled with deep conflicts. Jesus addressed the deepest conflict of all by coming to be our Savior. He is our Prince of Peace!

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. A prayer for peace is pretty broad and general. What kind of peace would you want to pray for specifically right now?
2. How old were your parents when they had you? How do you think that affected the way they parented? (if this is a difficult subject for anyone, you can keep your answers brief)

In the Word: Read Luke 1:26-38

3. Why are people always so startled when an angel appears to them (vs 29)?
4. The name Gabriel means “God is my strength” or “God is my hero.” Do you know anyone with this name, and do you think they know what it means?
5. When the angel told Mary that she was “highly favored” and that she had “found favor with God,” some people make more of that than the Bible does. What is the proper way (Biblical way) to regard Mary, the mother of Jesus, without elevating her too much or diminishing her important role?
6. What are the phrases that the angel uses to describe Mary’s child in verses 31-33? Write them out and talk about what they mean.

7. Mary, being a virgin, wondered how this could happen. Others still wonder the same thing today when they hear about the virgin birth. What would you tell someone who questions the teaching that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary or thinks it impossible?
8. Why is the angel's words in verse 37 so important for us to remember throughout our life?
9. Why is Mary's response in verse 38 a powerful example for all Christians to follow?

Pulling It All Together

10. Luke says that he compiled his Gospel by talking with eyewitnesses of everything that happened regarding Jesus. The details of his birth indicate that Luke spoke directly with Mary, who was a part of the early Christian community. What do you think were the ramifications of this in Mary's relationship with the Lord, with Joseph, and with her family?
11. Jesus is described in royal terms in this passage. He will be the adopted son of Joseph, a descendant of King David. Jesus will be given the throne of His father David, and will reign over all Jacob's descendants (that's us) in an everlasting kingdom. What does it mean to you that Jesus is King?
12. Mary had an amazing peace in her heart as she fulfilled God's plan for her. How can we have that same peace in our hearts when God brings us to challenging circumstances or changes our lives completely?

Prayer: Take prayer requests, and ask what kind of peace people want to pray for these days (see #1 above). Pray for peace in the world, in our church, in homes and families, and in our hearts, all grounded in our Savior Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Next Week: On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, we light the pink candle – the candle of joy! Half way through Advent we rejoice in the Lord's promises that are fulfilled in Jesus. Do you have an Advent Wreath? (available in the lobby or online)