

11.27.16 Identity
Discussion Questions

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Questions

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Share a story of a time when God did something in your life that was unexpected.
2. What kind of challenging situations have you found yourself in when you said, "Yes" to God?

Background

The Gospel of Luke begins his retelling of Jesus's story with an introduction that includes the assurance that everything he is including is based on eye witness accounts and that he has carefully done his research. He then moves on to tell of the miraculous occurrences around the birth of John the Baptist before he ever introduces us to Jesus. We pick up the story when Mary is visited by Gabriel an angel sent by God. Mary was likely between the ages of 12 and 14 which was the time when young women in first century Israel were promised to be married. Typically, the groom would be much older than the bride as it was his responsibility to be able to provide for his new wife. It would have been scandalous for Mary to be pregnant before she was married and would likely have ramifications not only for her and Joseph, but her entire family as well.

Read Luke 1:26-38

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. How did Gabriel greet Mary? Why did he greet her this way?
2. What did Gabriel tell Mary about the son she would have?
3. What proof did Gabriel offer to Mary to support what he was telling her?
4. What was Mary's response to Gabriel?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. How would you have felt in Mary's shoes?
2. What in our world today supports the truth of what Mary was told about her Son?
3. What image comes to mind when you hear Son of God?
4. If you mirrored Mary's response to Gabriel when God gave you surprising news how would your life be different?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. How would you retell the story of Mary in our modern culture?
2. If everything Gabriel told Mary about her Son is true (it is) then what action do you need to take in this world to let people know?
3. What proof do you usually offer to people to help them understand Jesus is all the things that Gabriel described?

4. Who is God calling you to share the real story of Jesus's birth with this Christmas season?

Closing

Spend some time praying for one another that we would all make use of Mary's example to motivate us to reach out to those in our world who do not know these stories. Pray also for those who struggle during the holiday season that they would experience a profound sense of comfort and belonging.

Reminder: During Advent we pause to remember that Jesus came once as a baby to announce the coming of the Kingdom of God. We also look forward to when Jesus will come back this time on the clouds to usher in the new heaven and the new earth.