

12.04.16 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 about one way that you have been refined by Jesus and been made more like him.
2. What about your life has changed since you chose to follow Jesus?

Background

Luke's retelling of Jesus's story begins with the events that lead up to Jesus's birth. Luke takes the time to include the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth and how they came to have a child who would grow up to be John the Baptist. We also find out that Gabriel tells Mary of this miracle when he is talking to her about what is in store for her. Mary was given the time of her pregnancy to prepare for the new responsibility she had been given.

As people who choose to follow Jesus we too are given our lifetime to live in the reality of the new responsibility we have. As followers of Jesus we are now to be his representatives to this world and are called to live with the tension of what Jesus has already accomplished (victory over death) and waiting for him to return. Our job is to work daily to know him better and become more like him.

Read Luke 1:26-38

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

1. After meeting Gabriel what was Mary's reaction to his greeting?
2. How did Mary respond to Gabriel's announcement of all her son would be?
3. What did Mary say to Gabriel after he told her about Elizabeth being six months pregnant?

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

1. When you first encountered Jesus, how did you respond?
2. When told she is going to have a child Mary's response was to remind Gabriel that she was a virgin. She did not comprehend that God was going to do something miraculous. Share a story about a time when you were surprised by how God intervened in your life.
3. How has being chosen by God changed the choices you make?

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

1. How can recalling your first encounter with Jesus equip you to share the Good News of Jesus with others?
2. What can you do to help others see the miraculous things Jesus has done and continues to do without making them think you are crazy?

3. What can you do for those in your life who do not know Jesus to show them how much Jesus's cares for them and has already done for them?

#### Closing

This is a great time of year to practice sharing the stories of the amazing things Jesus has been up to in your life. Spend some time praying together for wisdom to know which stories to tell and how to tell them so that the people you encounter see Jesus clearly.

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.