

For Everyone

Discussion Questions

Luke 1:26-56

Getting Started:

1) In your opinion, what's the absolute worst Christmas song? Best?

Digging Deeper:

2) Read verses 26-27.

a) Mary is "betrothed" to Joseph. How is this similar to and different from engagement?

b) How old was Mary at this time?

c) How does her response of faith challenge our ideas of age and spiritual/moral responsibility?

3) Read verse 28. Later in verse 42 Elizabeth exclaims, "Blessed are you among women." Roman Catholic theology venerates Mary. How so? Why do you think they do this? What does the Bible say?

4) Read verses 29-30. In two places Mary is called "favored." Because of God's favor she'll experience great risk and loss.

a) When Mary's pregnancy is discovered, what will she lose and/or risk?

b) How does this challenge what we should expect in our lives if God favors us?

c) Give examples of how your love for a person sometimes motivates you to introduce discomfort into their lives?

5) Read verses 31-33. What are the different descriptions of Jesus given? What do you think these descriptions mean?

6) In verse 34 Mary asks *how* a virgin conception will take place, not *why* it must take place.

a) Examine the following predictions she might have known about (Genesis 3:8-15; Isaiah 7:14).

b) "*Jesus had to be born of a woman to be a man. But if he had been the biological son of Joseph, he would only be a man.*" What do you think these statements mean?

c) Why do you think the virgin conception of Jesus was necessary?

7) Mary asks *how* the conception will take place.

- a) What's Gabriel's answer? Unpack what you think he means in verse 35?
- b) Discuss the assurances given to her in verses 36-45.
- c) Discuss her response in verses 46-55.

Making It Real:

8) Worship (vss.46-55) precedes, prepares, and launches Mary right into a very difficult drama. After three months of being away, Mary returns home three months pregnant, and she's likely starting to show (vs.56). What do we learn about worship from this?