



Mary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

Key Scripture: Luke 1:26-34

DISCUSSION GUIDE

During this second week of the *Christmas through a Different Lens* series, we begin by looking at how certain words over time have lost their true meaning. Pastor Neal gave examples of 'literally' and 'fine.' Another of those words today, especially in America, seems to be the idea of "Christian." This week we'll discuss what it truly means to be "Christian" and how Mary's response to the birth of Jesus is an example. "Christian" isn't a lip thing, it's a life thing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think back to Sunday's message. What do you remember? Review your notes if you have them. If you're with a CV group, talk with them about anything you found memorable or confusing.
2. Read the key scripture. How is Mary described?
3. How does the angel encourage Mary in verses 28-31?
4. What progression do you see in Mary's responses in Luke 1:29, 34, 38?
5. How does Gabriel answer her question about how this could happen (v. 35-37)?
6. Share a time when you've experienced going from confusion to questioning to faith.
7. How does Mary's response show her faith in God? How do our actions demonstrate our faith in God?
8. Why is it so hard for us to accept being a servant? Why do we have such trouble being submissive to God?
9. A mother who submits to the will of God marks the beginning of Jesus' life. How did the end of Jesus' life mark his obedience to the will of God? (See Luke 22:42; Isaiah 53:10; Philippians 2:8) In what ways should these examples of obedience influence you? (1 John 2:3-6, 5:2-3)
10. Read Matthew 16:22-24. Do you ever hold on to your own ideas and insist on your own way when you don't understand something, instead of conforming to the Lord's ways and thoughts?
11. When Jesus called His disciples, He said, "Follow me" (Matthew 4:18, 9:9). Share with the group what the life of a person who follows Him should look like.
12. What's one thing you learned from Sunday's message and today's discussion that will help you become a better disciple of Christ, and help others do the same?

NOW WHAT?

Reflect. Repent. Request.

