
The Angels of Christmas

HEARING GOD'S VOICE IN ADVENT

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 December 4, 2022

"Let it Be"

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for being a God of purpose that brings order from the chaos. Thank you for Mary and her willingness to say yes to your calling. Lord, help us to be like Mary. Teach us how to humble ourselves and pay attention to your call. And help us to say "Let it be with me according to your will." We pray this in the powerful and matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

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INTRODUCTION

The ingredients in the Christmas story seem kind of random: a decree from Caesar, an engaged virgin, an angelic announcement, three wise men, and no room at the inn... doesn't sound like the narrative we'd write if we were God. Some of the circumstances we may be dealing with this year aren't exactly what we'd write for our own stories either. How do we respond to the seemingly random curve balls in our lives the same way Mary did to God's biggest curve ball yet?

God's will for our lives is to have the willingness to say like Mary “Here I am Lord, use me according to your will.” In the face of life's seeming randomness, we can take comfort in the fact that God is active in the world. The Christmas story confirms that he is at work in the midst of darkness. As Christmas approaches, remind yourself of God's extraordinary love of humankind.

QUESTIONS

1. What is your most cherished family Christmas tradition and why is it special to you?
2. Is it easy or difficult for you to believe that everything in life happens for a purpose and according to God's will? Why?
3. Talk about a time when a season of tragedy or suffering caused you to wonder if life had purpose and meaning.
4. Read Luke 1:26-38 on page 1. What stands out to you about this passage?
5. Read Luke 1:38 on page 1. Can you imagine praying a similar prayer? What's stopping you?

FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to show someone the hope of Christmas?