

## SMALL GROUP SERMON STUDY

### *Leader's Guide*

December 12 and 13, 2009

#### Mary - A Moment of Truth

Luke 1:26-38

Ken Idleman

#### The Big Idea

The announcement to Mary that she was to give birth to Jesus was described by the musical as “a time when a young girl was given a great big assignment.”

#### The Background

v. 26 – “the sixth month” – of Elizabeth’s pregnancy with John the Baptist (see previous section of Luke 1)

v. 27 – “Pledged to be married” was stronger than our modern engagement. This covenant of an arranged marriage could be broken only by divorce.

v.28 – “Joseph, a descendant of David” means he was from the tribe of Judah – the tribe the Messiah was prophesied to come from.

v. 31 – “Give Him the Name Jesus” – Jesus means “Joshua” or “Salvation” in Hebrew.

Bible scholars say Mary was probably anywhere from fourteen to seventeen years of age at this time, the same as most young women in her time and culture who were preparing to marry and have a family.

#### For Discussion

1. Read Luke 1:26-38. Then discuss:

2. Verse 26 says it was the angel Gabriel who made this announcement to Mary. Read these Scriptures to see what else the Bible says about Gabriel:

Daniel 8:15-17

Daniel 9:20-23

Luke 1:18,19

3. Verse 26 also says that this event occurred in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. Does someone in the group have maps in their Bible and can show the group where the region of Galilee is, and the town of Nazareth?
4. Gabriel says to Mary in verse 30 that she has “found favor with God.” (The Greek literally says that she has found “grace” with God.)
  - What qualities do you suppose God found in Mary’s life that would have made her a good candidate to be the mother of his Son?
  - What qualities do you think we today need to exhibit or possess in order for God to think of us as candidates to do something great for Him?
5. Re-read verse 34. What do you think was on Mary’s mind when she asked this question?
  - Doubt?
  - “Give me more information”?
  - What else?
6. Re-read verse 38.
  - How would you describe Mary’s response to this significant moment in her life?
  - What can we learn from her about how to respond to God’s guidance in our lives?
  - Can you think of a modern example of someone who received a “big” call from God and responded in faith? What was the result?
7. Have you ever wanted to run a way from a challenging assignment God was clearly setting before you? If you did it, what happened? If you did not, what happened?
8. Can you think of any other Bible characters who were/were not like Mary? What can we learn from them?
9. Did anything else come up in the musical this weekend that you’d like to discuss?

#### For Further Study

Good article on the subject at:

[http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&hs=zyT&ei=qLXStnBJ4eD\\_AaNqWVAQ&sa=X&oi=spell&resnum=0&ct=result&cd=1&ved=0CA8QBSgA&q=mary+obeyed+God%27s+call&spell=1](http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&hs=zyT&ei=qLXStnBJ4eD_AaNqWVAQ&sa=X&oi=spell&resnum=0&ct=result&cd=1&ved=0CA8QBSgA&q=mary+obeyed+God%27s+call&spell=1)