

SERMON

LUKE - ACTS

SERIES



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LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

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HEAD

- ✚ In Luke's Gospel, the cost of discipleship is extravagantly high. Let us emulate Mariam, with a willingness to follow the Lord at any cost.
- ✚ God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called. And He uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.
- ✚ Since God doesn't know impossibilities, neither should we!

– Luke 1:26-45 –



HEART

- ✚ How does Mary's willingness to accept God's call at such a young age challenge our own readiness to say yes to God's plans, even when they might cost us our reputation or comfort?
- ✚ What does it mean that God doesn't call the qualified but qualifies the called, and how have you seen this principle at work in your own life or the lives of others?

– Luke 1:26-45 –



HEART

- ✚ In what ways have you put God in a box by declaring certain things impossible, and how can you begin to embrace that nothing is impossible with God?
- ✚ What does it mean to be a slave of the Lord as Mary declared herself to be, and how does this understanding of servanthood challenge modern concepts of personal freedom and autonomy?

– Luke 1:26-45 –



HEART

- ✚ How can we cultivate a sense of wonder and belief in the supernatural work of God in our lives, especially as adults who tend to become cynical or overly rational?
- ✚ What social, relational, or professional costs might you face if you fully committed to following God's call on your life, and are you willing to pay that price?

– Luke 1:26-45 –



HANDS

- ✚ Choose ONE of the following:
- ✚ Option 1: The Mary Challenge
 - ✚ Write out your own version of Luke 1:38: “I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.” Be specific about what you’re surrendering to God.
 - ✚ Read it aloud each morning this week as a prayer of submission.

– Luke 1:26-45 –



HANDS

- ✚ Choose ONE of the following:
- ✚ Option 2: The Impossibility Prayer
 - ✚ Identify one "impossibility" you've given up on
 - ✚ Commit to praying boldly about it every day this week
 - ✚ Journal what God shows you about His power vs. your limitations

– Luke 1:26-45 –



HANDS

- ✚ Choose ONE of the following:
- ✚ Option 3: The Ordinary Life Inventory
 - ✚ List 5 “ordinary” things about yourself (background, skills, resources, circumstances)
 - ✚ Pray and ask God how He wants to use each ordinary thing for His extraordinary purposes
 - ✚ Act on one thing He shows you

– Luke 1:26-45 –



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FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL

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Day 1: Favored by Grace Alone

Reading: Luke 1:26-33

- ✚ Devotional: Mary received heaven's most important announcement not because of her credentials, accomplishments, or social standing, but purely through God's grace. At just 12 or 13 years old, this ordinary girl from Nazareth—a place with a questionable reputation—was chosen to bear the Savior of the world. She brought nothing to the table except availability.
- ✚ This should encourage us deeply. God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called. Your background, education, or social status don't determine your usefulness to God. What matters is your willingness to say "yes" when He calls.
- ✚ Today, stop striving to earn God's favor through performance. Instead, rest in the truth that you already have His favor through grace—unearned, undeserved, and irreplaceable.
- ✚ Reflection: What boxes have you created that limit who God can use? How does Mary's story challenge your assumptions about spiritual qualification?



Day 2: Nothing Is Impossible with God

Reading: Genesis 18:9-14; Luke 1:34-37

- ✚ Devotional: When Gabriel announced Mary's miraculous conception, he reminded her of Elizabeth's impossible pregnancy, declaring: "Nothing will be impossible with God." This echoes God's question to Abraham when Sarah laughed at the promise of a child in her old age: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"
- ✚ We serve a God who doesn't know impossibilities. Yet we constantly place limitations on Him—in our finances, relationships, health, and dreams. We've become too sophisticated as adults to believe in the supernatural, losing our sense of wonder.
- ✚ The more we wander in faith, the more we wonder at God's power. Elizabeth was barren and past menopause. Mary was a virgin. Both obstacles were overcome by God's power.
- ✚ What impossibility are you facing today? Bring it before the God who specializes in making the impossible possible.
- ✚ Reflection: What "impossibilities" have you accepted as permanent in your life? How might God be inviting you to believe again?



Day 3: The Cost of Discipleship

Reading: Luke 1:38; Luke 9:23-24

- ✚ Devotional: Mary's "yes" to God was not cheap. By accepting this divine assignment, she risked public shame, divorce, ostracization, and potentially even stoning for appearing to commit adultery. She would wear the scarlet letter of her day—an unmarried pregnant woman in a society that showed no mercy to such circumstances.
- ✚ Yet this 12-year-old girl declared, "I am the Lord's slave. May it happen to me as you've said." She was willing to lose everything to walk with God.
- ✚ True discipleship costs us something. It means daily cross-bearing, dying to self so Christ can live through us. If following Jesus costs you nothing, you may not actually be following Him. The irony of the Christian life is that we must decrease so He can increase; we must die so we can truly live.
- ✚ Mary's radical surrender challenges our comfortable Christianity.
- ✚ Reflection: What is following Jesus currently costing you? What might God be asking you to surrender that you've been holding back?



Day 4: Ordinary People, Extraordinary God

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Luke 1:39-45

- ✚ Devotional: God chose an ordinary girl from an insignificant town to accomplish the most extraordinary task in human history. Mary wasn't well-connected, wealthy, educated, or skilled. She was average in every measurable way. That's exactly why God chose her.
- ✚ God receives glory when ordinary people do extraordinary things, because everyone knows the person couldn't have accomplished it alone. When qualified, capable people succeed, we credit their talent. When the unqualified succeed, we recognize God's power.
- ✚ Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, recognized the extraordinary happening through ordinary Mary: "Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill what He has spoken to her."
- ✚ If you're feeling ordinary today, you're exactly where God wants you. He specializes in using regular people to change the world. Your ordinariness is not a disqualification—it's your greatest qualification.
- ✚ Reflection: How has feeling "ordinary" kept you from stepping into what God is calling you to do? What would change if you believed God delights in using ordinary people?



Day 5: When the Holy Spirit Fills Us

Reading: Luke 1:41-45; Acts 1:8

- ✚ Devotional: When Mary entered Elizabeth's home, extraordinary things happened. John the Baptist leaped in his mother's womb, recognizing the presence of the Messiah. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and received supernatural knowledge she couldn't have known naturally—that Mary was pregnant with the Lord, and that Mary had believed God's word.
- ✚ The Holy Spirit gives insights, revelation, and joy that transcend natural understanding. He downloads divine information, empowers witness-bearing (even from the womb!), and produces fruit that glorifies Jesus.
- ✚ Notice that Elizabeth's first response wasn't to focus on herself but to bless Mary and acknowledge God's work. When we're filled with the Spirit, we become conduits of blessing, encouragement, and truth to others.
- ✚ God hasn't stopped doing wonders—we've only lost our sense of wonder. The same Spirit who filled Elizabeth wants to fill you today.
- ✚ Reflection: When was the last time you experienced a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit? How might you position yourself today to receive His presence and power afresh?



Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, You are the God of impossibilities. Help us to release You from the boxes we've created and to believe You for the extraordinary. Like Mariam, may we say "yes" to Your plans regardless of the cost. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so we might be vessels of Your grace and power in this world. In Your beautiful, wonderful, powerful name we pray. Amen.



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