



NEW BRIDGES UMC “SHARING TIME” GUIDE

SUNDAY, DEC 14 2025
“GIVING SPIRIT”
LUKE 1:26–38

START HERE

In case you are sharing with a person you haven't met before, begin by introducing yourselves and sharing an interesting detail about yourselves. (you can skip this part if you all know each other)

As an icebreaker, share something, big or small, that you're feeling grateful for this week?"

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER:

We share from a place of vulnerability and authenticity. We comes as we are, believing that God embraces us as we are. So we too embrace each other as we are.
We hold each other's words in confidence and prayer. We carry these words only within ourselves so we may pray for our siblings in Christ throughout the week.

CLOSING

After everyone has had the chance to share, please take turns to share your prayer request(s). After sharing your prayer request, take turns to pray for one another.

NEXT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS BASED ON THE MESSAGE

1. The sermon challenged the idea that Mary was just sitting around waiting for something to happen. She had a fiancé, a wedding to plan, and a future mapped out. When you look at your own life right now, what 'plans' or 'furniture' currently fill up your space? Is there a specific plan or expectation you would find difficult to move if God asked for that space today?
2. The sermon described a God who is powerful enough to create the cosmos instantly, yet insists on the 'inefficiency' of waiting for a teenager in Nazareth—and us—to say 'Yes' before acting. Why do you think God prefers this slow partnership over just fixing the world instantly? How does it change your view of your own life to realize that God doesn't need your labor to get the job done, but desires your partnership so you can 'witness the wonder' of God's work?
3. The message ended with a shift from just 'supporting the church' to becoming the 'physical embodiment' of God in our neighborhoods. If you were to 'let Christ be born' in your specific workplace, school, or family situation this week, what is one concrete thing that would change about how you interact with people there?

"We are all meant to be mothers of God. What good is it to me if this eternal birth of the divine Son takes place unceasingly, but does not take place within myself? And, what good is it to me if Mary is full of grace if I am not also full of grace? What good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to his Son if I do not also give birth to him in my time and my culture? This, then, is the fullness of time: When the Son of God is begotten in us."

—Meister Eckhart

OTHER WAYS OF SHARING

ACCORDING TO OUR WESLEYAN TRADITION

HGIWYS “How goes it with your soul?”
(How is your relationship God? What do you feel God is doing or saying in specific areas of your life? family, work, friendships, etc.)

SOME GENERAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What stands out to you from the message and why?
- What is God calling me to change (both in perspective and action)?

NOTES:



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SERMON DISCUSSION
GUIDE