



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 3: Love (Mary)

Icebreaker: Name one of your Top 3 gifts both given as well as received. Share why at least one of them was so special. And finally, who are you most looking forward to give a gift to this year?

1) Share your thoughts on the following quote from C.S. Lewis [emphasis added]:

*The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as **interruptions** of one's 'own,' or 'real' life. The truth is of course that what one calls the **interruptions** are precisely one's real life – the life God is sending one day by day.*

2) Describe any “life, interrupted” moments you have experienced, personally. What are some of the lessons God has taught you in that space? Be honest. Maybe you’re still going through that moment today or maybe these lessons are still unclear. That’s ok. The point here is honesty and vulnerability – we trust God honors this posture in all of us (Psalm 51:17).

3) Imagine Mary’s state-of-mind with regards to her pregnancy. Read aloud the divine interruption that takes place in Luke 1:26-38. What are some of the most notable elements to you? How is this scene relevant today?

4) “For nothing will be impossible with God.” (Luke 1:37) Sometimes things are so simple, we don’t think about them so much. We are not moved by them. Could this be the case with the verse above? Discuss. Where else in Scripture do you see the truth of Luke 1:37 demonstrated? (See also: Genesis 18:14; Numbers 11:23; Job 42:2; Jeremiah 32:17,27; Matthew 19:26; Mark 10:27; Romans 8:31)

5) There is an obedience which comes from FEAR. There is also an obedience which comes from LOVE. Share examples of each. Which dynamic do you see most in your own life and why/how? Finally read the following passages (John 14:15,21; 1John 5:3; 2John 1:6) and discuss what could move you towards more obedience to The Father from a place of love rather than fear? What can we learn from Mary here?

JOIN US THIS SATURDAY!

NEIGHBORHOOD
Christmas
FESTIVAL

Saturday, December 17th | 11am - 2pm

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Bring before December 17th

New, Unwrapped Toys

Non-perishable Foods