

*Read: Luke 1:26-38, Ephesians 1:11-12*

**Opening Questions:**

- What are you looking forward to this Christmas season? why?
- Do you ever feel as though God is distant and far away?

**Study and Apply:**

- How did Mary feel when the angel appear to her?
- According to the message how long had it been since God spoke to anyone? How is that relevant to this story and the possibility of wondering if God cares and is working in the world?
- How did Mary respond to all this news from the angel?
- What kind of an attitude did Mary display and what does this say about the kind of people that God has His favor on?
- The kind of faith that God is looking for is the kind not that moves God, but trusts in God even when it appears that God is not moving or responding in people's lives. How can you grow in this kind of faith?
- According to the passage in Ephesians how much of your life is God able to use in accordance with his will and plan? Explain?

What is one thing you can do this week to apply something specific that you have learned from this message?

In what ways can you encourage someone this week who needs it?

Who will you invite this week to a service?