

Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to experience real life & real impact.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

"Let it be to me as you have said" #5/5 Dec. 4, 2016

- 1. Take some time to share about how God has been working in and through you this past week using the B.L.E.S.S. habits questions.
 - How has the Gospel been a Blessing to you this week?
 - What are you hearing from God as you Listen to the Spirit & read God's Word, the Bible?
 - Who have you had an opportunity to Eat with this week to build relationship?
 - Who has God led you to Serve this week?
 - In what ways have you been able to **Share** about Jesus this week?
 - What would it look like if we treated each other and our neighbours as family? Think about BLESS through the lens of "family."
- 2. What resonated with you from Sunday's sermon or what did you find helpful, or challenging?
- 3. Read Luke 1:26-55. What do you find compelling about this account?
- 4. Reflect on v. 38. What implications came with Mary's decision? How did it cost Mary to walk in obedience? In what ways was she blessed by her obedience?
- 5. Read Luke 1:46-55. Faced with a life altering assignment from God, Mary responds with trust and obedience. Reflect on the attributes of God she recounts in her song. Which ones specifically speak to you today and why?
- 6. How does "resting in the character of God gives us confidence to give our lives away for Christ and His Kingdom"? How does the cross best reveal the character of God and how does this help us trust Him.
- 7. Read Romans 12:1-2 in the Message and another translation. How does this passage illustrate Mary's response to God? What would it look like for you to embrace and apply this Scripture to your life? How is God asking you to respond today?



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SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message

"Let it be to me as you have said"

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor Dec. 4, 2016

So how do we grow to trust God and why does it matter?

Luke 1:26-55 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David.

- ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favoured woman! The Lord is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favour with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"
- ³⁴ Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." ³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.
- ³⁶ What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For the word of God will never fail."
- ³⁸ Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her....

Romans 5:15-19

Luke 1:46-55 Mary responded,

- "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. God is the King
- ⁴⁷ How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour! **God is the <u>Saviour</u>**
- ⁴⁸ For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. God is Loving
- ⁴⁹ For the Mighty One is holy, **God is <u>Holy</u>** and he has done great things for me. **God is <u>Personal</u>**
- 50 He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him. God is Merciful
- ⁵¹ His mighty arm has done tremendous things! **God is <u>All-Powerful</u>** He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.
- ⁵² He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble. **God is Humble**
- ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hand. **God is <u>Just</u>**
- ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel and remembered to be merciful. **God is Helpful**
- ⁵⁵ For he made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever." **God is <u>Faithful</u>**

Big Idea: Resting in the <u>character</u> of God gives us <u>confidence</u> to give our lives away for <u>Christ</u> & His Kingdom.

Romans 12 ¹⁻² (The Message) So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.