

Conversation Starters

- How do you typically celebrate Christmas?
- How will this year be different?

Discuss

The Christmas season often brings with it a special spirit and sense of renewal. But how we celebrate it is important to helping us get all that we truly need and want out of it.

- How do you typically feel during and after the Christmas season?
- How are you intentionally including Christ in how you celebrate Christmas?

Mary’s first reaction to Christmas was seeking to understand the true meaning of it all. She ultimately found, just as we would, that God is willing to meet us and help us with our questions about Him. And our greater understanding of the true meaning of Christmas will allow us to have a greater celebration during this season.

“How will this be,’ Mary asked the angel, ‘since I am a virgin?’ The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.... For nothing is impossible with God.’” ([Luke 1:34-37, NIV](#))

- How would you explain the meaning of Christmas?
- How does that line up with what we learn in the Bible?
- What questions about Christmas or God do you need to seek understanding for?

Mary’s second reaction after getting her questions answered was believing and accepting it. She had faith in everything God was doing for us through Christmas and chose to serve God through it all, even at great risk.

“I am the Lord’s servant,’ Mary answered. ‘May it be to me as you have said.’ Then the angel left her.” ([Luke 1:38, NIV](#))

- Is there anything in the Christmas story that is hard for you to accept?
- If God was prompting you to something in your life, would you do it?
- What would be difficult for you to sacrifice if God asked you to?

Next Steps

When Mary first heard the Christmas story, she gave everything she had to God and received the greatest gift of all, which helped her celebrate Christmas for all that it was meant to be celebrated. How does Mary’s reaction and celebration inspire your celebration of Christmas?

*“I’m bursting with God-news;
I’m dancing the song of my Savior God.
God took one good look at me, and look what happened —
I’m the most fortunate woman on earth!
What God has done for me will never be forgotten,
the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.
His mercy flows in wave after wave
on those who are in awe before him.”
([Luke 1:46-50. Msg](#))*

Dec. 9: [The Prophets: Big Picture Bible Study](#)

Dec. 9: [The Grounds Online Book Club: A Christmas Carol](#)

Dec. 12: [Hope Vibes Serve Day](#)

Dec. 18-23: [The Christmas at Meck Experience](#)

Continued Reading

Luke 1:[26-38](#), [46-50](#).

Prayer

God, thank you for the incredible gift of Jesus. Let Mary’s reaction to the Good News of Christmas inspire our response to it as well. Help us this season to celebrate Christmas for all that it is. Help us gain understanding where we need it and position ourselves to trust you with everything that we are.