PREPARE HIM ROOM

November 21-22, 2026

Make Room for the Unexpected - Luke 1:26–38

Big idea: God often does His greatest work through circumstances we never expected.

Opening conversation:

Think of a time when one phone call, message, or unexpected event changed your plans. Without sharing anything too personal, how did you initially respond?

Read Luke 1:26–38 aloud. Invite the group to listen for what Gabriel says about Jesus, what Mary asks, and how Mary responds.

What details show that Mary's life was about to change dramatically?

_____

What does Gabriel reveal about the identity and future reign of Jesus (vv. 31–33)?

_____

Which phrase or verse stands out to you today, and why?

_____

1. God interrupts our plans - Luke 1:26–30; Proverbs 19:21

Mary was betrothed to Joseph and living an ordinary life in Nazareth when Gabriel arrived with an extraordinary announcement. Being "highly favoured" did not mean the road ahead would be simple. God's purposes were larger than Mary's expectations.

Why do unexpected changes often feel threatening, even when they may open new possibilities?

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How can we distinguish wise planning from insisting that God follow our timetable?

_____

What might it look like for our church to plan faithfully while remaining open to God's leading?

_____

2. Faith does not require all the answers - Luke 1:31–34; Psalm 13:1, 5; Proverbs 3:5

Mary asked, "How will this be?" Her question did not prevent her from listening and responding. The Bible makes room for honest lament and questions alongside trust in God's character.

1. What is the difference between asking God an honest question and refusing to trust Him until every question is answered? _____

How do Psalm 13:1 and 13:5 hold sorrow and trust together? _____

What helps you take a faithful next step when you cannot see the whole path? _____

How can our church care well for people waiting for medical results, undergoing treatment, or living with grief? _____

3. Surrender makes room for God's promises - Focus: Luke 1:35–38; Luke 2:7

Gabriel points to God's power and faithfulness; Mary answers, "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled." Her response is willing trust, not certainty about every challenge ahead. God's grace comes first; faith responds.

1. What do Gabriel's words in verses 35–37 reveal about who accomplishes God's purposes?
   _____

What do you admire about Mary's response in verse 38? What might have made it costly?

_____

What is one concrete way to "prepare Him room" this week—in your schedule, relationships, prayers, or service? _____

How does Mary's story point beyond Mary to the good news of Jesus Himself?

_____

Invite each participant to complete one of these sentences privately or aloud:

One plan I need to hold with open hands is..._____

One honest question I want to bring to God is..._____

One faithful step I can take this week is..._____

Group challenge: This week, make room for Jesus through one act of compassion: accompany someone to an appointment, provide a meal, send a note, pray with a friend, or invite a neighbour to Christmas Eve.

The center of Christmas is not merely Mary's courage; it is Jesus Christ, the Son of God who came to save us. He came near, died for our sins, and rose again so that we may receive forgiveness and new life through faith. Invite anyone who is exploring faith to consider what it would mean to welcome Christ.