

Deep Practice Discipleship Guide

“The Unexpected Announcement” — Luke 1:26–38

1. OPENING FEEDBACK: How Did Your Deep Practice Go?

Begin by inviting each person to share for 1–2 minutes:

- What did you commit to practicing last week?
- How did it go?
- Where did you sense God working?
- What was challenging?
- What encouraged you?

Leader tip:

Affirm progress, celebrate any attempt, and keep the tone warm and supportive rather than evaluative.

2. SERMON RECAP — The Unexpected Announcement (Outline)

Use this brief outline to anchor your group in Sunday’s teaching:

A. Mary Was PERPLEXED (vv. 28–29)

- Troubled by being called “favored one”
- We struggle to believe God delights in us
- God’s presence is real even in the ordinary

B. Mary PONDERS

- She pauses rather than reacts
- She reflects deeply — a holy pause
- Instructional for us: discern, reflect, listen

C. Mary SURRENDERS (v. 38)

- “Let it be to me...” — posture of willingness
- We are doulas; the Spirit gives birth to God’s work

- Pondering leads to stepping out in faith

D. PROFOUND IMPACT (vv. 32–33)

- Mary’s yes had eternal consequences
- Our yes can be used by God to shape someone’s eternity
- God works through ordinary disciples in ordinary moments

E. HEART + HANDS

- Someone’s faithfulness shaped your faith
 - Your “yes” can shape someone else’s
 - Practice noticing God in the ordinary
 - Daily Mary Moment:
“Lord, You are with me.
Help me hear Your voice today.
Show me one person to encourage or serve.”
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3. BLOOM’S TAXONOMY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

REMEMBER / UNDERSTAND

1. What part of the Annunciation story was new or surprising to you?
2. Why do you think Mary was perplexed by being called “favored”?

APPLY

3. Where in your daily life do you tend to overlook God’s presence?
4. What would it look like for you to “ponder” rather than react this week?

ANALYZE

5. How does Mary’s process (perplexed → ponder → surrender) mirror the way God often works in us?
6. In what ways do you see the Holy Spirit doing the “real work” while we simply assist?

EVALUATE

7. Why is it difficult to adopt Mary’s posture of surrender?

8. What fears or barriers make it hard to say “let it be to me according to your word”?

CREATE

9. What is one small “yes” you could offer God this week that might have eternal impact for someone else?
10. Who is one person God may be nudging you to encourage, notice, or serve?
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4. GOSPEL STORYING EXERCISE

Passage: Luke 5:1–11 — The Calling of the First Disciples

This story parallels your sermon beautifully because:

- Jesus steps into ordinary life (fishing)
- Peter is perplexed
- Peter ponders and responds
- A moment of surrender leads to profound impact
- The call happens in Nazareth-like ordinariness

Instructions for Storying

1. **Read the passage aloud twice** (preferably in different voices/translations).
2. **Retell the story in your own words** without looking at the text.
3. **Fill in details as a group** — what did you miss or remember differently?
4. **Discuss the meaning:**
 - What do we learn about God?
 - What do we learn about discipleship?
 - What does this story ask us to do?

Storying Questions

- What is ordinary or everyday about this scene?
- How does Jesus interrupt the ordinary?
- What part of the story perplexes or troubles Peter?

- Where do you see a moment of pondering or hesitation?
- What does Peter’s “yes” reveal about surrender?
- What profound impact flows from this moment?
- How does this story reinforce Sunday’s teaching?

Connection:

Both Mary and Peter are met by God in ordinary life.

Both are perplexed.

Both are called to trust.

Both say yes.

Both have eternal impact.

5. CLOSING — WRITTEN COMMITMENT + SHARING

Give everyone 2–3 minutes of quiet to write down their Deep Practice for the coming week:

Prompts:

- What is the one thing I will practice this week?
- What is my “daily Mary moment”?
- Who is one person I will intentionally notice, encourage, or serve?
- What small “yes” is God inviting me to offer?

Then invite each person to share their commitment briefly.

Leader tip:

Encourage specificity:

- “I will pray Mary’s prayer every morning before I check my phone.”
- “I will reach out to __ on Tuesday.”
- “My Mary moment will be my commute.”

Close in prayer for the Spirit to empower each person’s “yes.”