

Fear Not
“What’s the Plan?”

Luke 1:26-38

Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening discussion: Have you ever had a plan fail and been afraid of what might come next?

Read Luke 1:26-28

- Who was Elizabeth, and why is her pregnancy timeline important to the story of Jesus’ birth?
- Andy said that Nazareth was not a significant city, nor had Mary done anything to earn God’s “favor”. What does this tell us about God’s plans?

Read Luke 1:29-33

- Why would Mary be “greatly troubled” at the angel’s words?
- Notice it is God who is bringing this plan to fruition, not Mary. How can this be reassuring for God’s plan for our lives?

You can read God’s promise to David regarding someone from his line always holding the throne in 1 Chronicles 17:10(b)-14.

- What parallels can we draw to Jesus?

In Luke 1:18 Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this?” In Luke 1:34, Mary asks the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

- What is the difference between their questions? Why is Zechariah rebuked and punished by the angel but Mary is not?
- What questions do you have for God about his plans for your life? Are you comfortable asking him?

Remember the other stories about Mary in the Bible – Losing 12-year-old Jesus in Jerusalem (Luke 2:41-52); At the wedding in Cana when Jesus turns the water into wine (John 2:1-11); Mary seeking Jesus while he’s teaching but having him say, “Whoever does the will of my father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother,” (Matthew 12:46-50); Mary at the cross (John 19:25-27); and Mary in the upper room, praying with Jesus’ disciples (Acts 1:12-14).

- How might the angel’s words, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God,” helped her through the hard times?

- Romans 5:5 says, "God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." How does this grace from God give you strength to endure hardship in life?

If you are comfortable, share with each other something in your life that you may be afraid of what is coming next, and pray for each other about that situation.