

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 2019 Advent Series

These questions are for the **December 8, 2019** sermon, "The King to be Born." Please read the sermon passage (Luke 1:26-38) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER HOW THE STORY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH UNFOLDS, NOTE . . .

1. The unlikely circumstances chosen by God (26-30)
  - a. An unlikely means:
    - i. Gabriel, the angel (messenger) from God is sent to Mary.
    - ii. Mary is a virgin, betrothed to be married.
  - b. An unlikely setting: people will regularly ask, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46)
  - c. God interrupts Mary's quiet (but beautiful!) life.
    - i. He interrupts the ordinary with the extraordinary.
    - ii. Though your expectations are dashed, do not let fear be your counselor.
2. The eternal reign promised by God (31-33)
  - a. Jesus means, "God is our salvation."
  - b. He will be on the throne of his father David forever. Eternally.
  - c. The cross is not a death that could end the reign of Jesus Christ, the one born to be King.
3. The strategic plan initiated by God (34-38)
  - a. While Zechariah's question shows skepticism, Mary's questions shows wonder. "How?"
  - b. God encourages Mary's trust by pointing her to the sign of Elizabeth's pregnancy.
  - c. Nothing is impossible with God. Nothing.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: God decided to use an unknown young girl from a little town with nothing going for it to bring about the birth of his promised Messiah. God often interrupts our "ordinary" in order to accomplish his "extraordinary." How does this increase your wonder about God's wisdom, his intentions, his thoughts and his will?
2. Based on #1, above: Mary's tidy little dream of marriage and family was forever impacted, but God replaced it with "favor" and blessing. Are you ever tempted to give up God's favor while you cling to your tidy little dream? Discuss this: "Do not let fear become your counselor."
3. Based on #2, above: Believers often grapple with the tension of believing what we think we see, while holding unswervingly to God's promises. When Mary saw Jesus crucified, she would have to make sense of the fact that it has been promised that Jesus will reign on David's throne forever. Where do you struggle most with what you see, while you remember God's promises? Do you have the confidence and boldness to proclaim Jesus' forever reign to friends today?
4. Based on #3, above: Mary needs an explanation. For encouragement, Gabriel points her to another sign (Elizabeth's miraculous pregnancy) that was already in progress. This was meant to show Mary that "Nothing is impossible with God." Do you believe that Mary, a virgin in Nazareth, conceived a baby who would take away the sins of the world? Discuss this.