

### Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

### Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

### Icebreaker

As a child, what was one of the biggest messes you ever made for your parents?

Something I might have discovered as an adult:

- The IRS *does* make house calls.
- Hot glass looks exactly like cold glass.
- Friends come and go, but enemies accumulate.
- The bank always corrects errors that were in your favor.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Read Luke 1:26-38 together as a group

### Who is Jesus for?

Question: What type of person was Mary?

- She was a young teenager
- She was probably poor
- She was from a poor town
- She had the newest iPhone and drove a nice car just like all the other teens in her town.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: Why is the kind of person Mary was important for us today?

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Question: What kind of person is Jesus for?

- Anyone
- The broken
- Only people that have it all together
- The messy
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: Why do you think people try to hide their spiritual messiness even though Jesus came to rescue people who are in a spiritual mess?

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Question: What kind of mess are you most likely to try to hide?

- Relational
- Financial
- Addiction
- OK I confess, I like Taylor Swift
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### How do we respond?

1. We consider

*But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and **tried to discern** what sort of greeting this might be. (Luke 1:29 ESV)*

There are two types of doubt. So there is a kind of doubt that is actually closed to the truth and there is a the kind of doubt that is actually open to the truth.

Question: What kind of doubt have you had about God? How do you help people that are experiencing each kind of doubt?

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2. We trust

*And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:38 ESV)*

Question: What are some things that might have caused Mary not to trust God in this situation?

- She was being called to be an unwed mother
- People might treat her son poorly
- She might deal with some shaming from other people
- It wasn't going to be easy
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: How is our situation today always going to be similar to Mary's?

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Question: What is an area in your life that you are having trouble trusting God right now?

- Financial
- Career
- Family
- Broken relationship
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How would trusting God help your situation? Why is it always a good idea to trust God?

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### Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:

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