

## **Dec 10 – Leader’s Guide**

### **Luke 1:26-38 - “Infinitely More Than We Can Ask Or Imagine”**

#### **Reading: Luke 1:26-38**

1. Read the passage, and contrast it with the parallel passage in Matthew 1:18-25. Why do you think Luke chose to make Mary the focus? What impact does that have on his story?

*Luke makes a specific point in his gospel of raising up voices that otherwise may be unheard, and Mary is a prime example of that. By showing Mary’s submission, Luke begins to show that a response to the gospel is asked of everyone – and everyone can play a part in it. (Incidentally, it is possible that Mary was one of the ‘eyewitnesses’ that Luke interviewed, which would explain the details of her experience.)*

2. What are some of the ways that Mary would have been one of the powerless people in her society?

*She was young in a society where age meant status; poor when wealth was seen as a sign of God’s merited favour; female where the voices of power were male; still unwed and childless, although betrothed; and from a backwater town in Galilee.*

3. The three people Karen mentioned in her sermon who were commissioned the same way as Mary were Moses (Ex 3), Gideon (Judges 6), and Jeremiah (Jer 1). What was the pattern of the commission?

*God shows up (sometimes through an angel), offers a personal greeting, commissions them; they raise an objection, which is met with a reassurance that God is with them; and they are given a sign as proof.*

4. Luke has multiple subtle references to the Old Testament, including this pattern of commissioning, as well as the birth announcement echoing others in the Old Testament, and even Sarah’s story. Why do you think he did this?

*Luke is writing to a Gentile audience, showing that this is a continuation of the Hebrew story, and that Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament. He also records Jesus saying that the Old Testament is all about him (Luke 24:44)*

5. How is our calling as disciples to offer up our lives to God similar to Mary’s?

*We are called to offer our whole body and soul to Jesus to do with what he will. As we do, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and become (collectively and individually) the place where God dwells on earth.*

6. What do you like about this idea? What are some objections that might rise for you?

*Allow space for conversation and encouragement.*