

FROM FEAR TO FAITH
Investigating Jesus #3
LUKE 1:26-38

ICE BREAKER What are you afraid of? ex: spiders, heights, clowns...

BACKGROUND The announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary was initially received with fear. The angel's assurance was "Fear not, the Lord is with you." God can change our fear to faith!

THE BIG PICTURE: We don't have to be afraid anymore. God is with us!

DIGGING DEEPER

Introduction: Read Luke 1:26-39

God Uses Ordinary People: LUKE 1:26-27 What difference does it make to know that God chose an ordinary teenager named Mary to be the mother of His Son? Why did God choose Mary? (She was chosen to receive God's grace! God is the One who is good)

Mary Faces Real Fear: LUKE 1:28-33 & ISAIAH 7:14 Why is Mary frightened/troubled by the angel's greeting? How did Gabriel respond to Mary's fear? What does it mean to find favor with God? Was it earned in any way? How could Mary see God's hand on her life? Do you see God actively working in your life?

How Can God Use Me? Respond Like Mary Did: LUKE 1:38

1. Mary wanted what God wanted

What expectations must Mary have felt? What risks would she have to take? What did Mary have to give up to embrace God's will for her? Describe a time in your life when saying "yes" to God meant you had to sacrifice personal goals and priorities. Do you believe God has a plan for your life?

2. She trusted God's will

Why are we sometimes afraid of God's will for our life? How can we demonstrate our trust in God's will?

3. She depended on His power

Mary asks, "How can this be?" How does the angel respond? (v34-35) How does the angel punctuate his statement? (v37) What is significant to you about the power of the Most High? In what area of your life do you need to believe that "nothing is impossible with God"? What is keeping you from believing that God can do spectacular things in your life?

CONCLUSION: God will accomplish the promises and purposes that He has for your life as we respond like Mary did. Surrender. Trust. Depend on His power. We don't have to be afraid anymore. Emmanuel — God is with us!

- What can we learn from Mary? How will you walk out of fear into faith?
- What challenged you in this message?
- How will this message make a difference in your life?