

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

## Portrait of Mary

Week of December 1, 2019

**Week 1: Surrender (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)**

**Text: Luke 1:26-38**

Of all women on earth, God chose Mary. Why did He choose her? In this series we are studying four characteristics of Mary that delighted God and can inspire us. The first of Mary's qualities is her "Surrender" to the authority of God. From this great woman, we can learn needed truth about how we submit to the lordship of Christ.

**Kicking it off:** Describe one of your favorite traditions of the Christmas season.

### Discussion:

1. Reread *Luke 1:26-28* God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored!"

Why do you think God chose to convey His assignment to Mary through an angel?

2. Reread Gabriel's words found in *Luke 1:31-33* "You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

What can be learned about Mary's child through this description?

3. What was wonderful about Mary's assignment and what was terrifying about it?
4. Have you ever sensed God asking you to do something that was both wonderful and terrifying? If so, describe the assignment.

5. Reread *Luke 1:38* "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."

Speculate as to what made Mary prepared to surrender well in the moment of her big assignment.

6. Why do many Christians struggle to surrender control of their lives to the Lord?
7. What area of your life do you need to surrender to the lordship of Christ?

**Wrapping It Up:** Ask the Lord to give you the courage, trust and strength necessary to surrender to His lordship in both big and small decisions.