

MARY

Luke 1:26-38

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THE PICTURE OF HOW GOD WORKS
2. THE MODEL FOR HOW TO RESPOND

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick two or three of these to talk about as a group

1. What was most helpful for you from this week's message? Why?
2. God's work in our lives can often feel like we are watching an upside-down speed painter. Take a minute as a group to watch a few online videos of upside-down speed painters and discuss how this art form can help illustrate God's work in the world. You can find one [HERE](#).
3. God's choice to work in and through Mary shows us that He works in the lives of limited people. What are some ways you are limited? We should embrace some limits, such as our limited time and lack of ability to control outcomes. However, God can break through other limits, such as our fear and feelings of inadequacy. How can we tell the difference between limits we should embrace versus limits we should ask for God's help us break through?
4. What are some ways God has interrupted or unsettled your plans with His plans? Have you been able to see the goodness of His plans yet? If so, please explain. If not, how are you handling the difficulty of waiting?
5. God works in ways we would never dream of in the lives of people we would never pick. His work still continues today through His church. The specifics of how He works through us will look different for each of His followers. Who has God made you? What has He given you? What are the needs around you that you can meet?
6. Mary responds to God by engaging her mind, asking honest questions and submitting to the King. What makes each of these aspects of her response important? What steps can you take to grow in one of these areas this week?
7. Gabriel told Mary to consider God's work in Elizabeth's life as evidence to build her faith that God can do the impossible. God's work in the lives of other people can be some of the most faith-building evidence possible. What impossible thing has God done in your life?
8. How do you feel when you hear that, in Jesus, you are pursued and highly-favored by God?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: In Jesus, you can rejoice, you are highly-favored, the Lord is with you, and you do not have to be afraid. For, in Him, you have found favor with God.