

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Pray the Lord's Prayer together or individually to begin the time (Mtt 6:9-13).

Read Luke 1: 5-38

Consider the two stories of Gabriel visiting Zechariah and Mary.

What similarities and parallels do you notice?

What differences and contrasts do you see?

Compare and contrast Mary & Zechariah, and Jesus & John.

Focus on Luke 1:26-30

How would you respond if an archangel suddenly appeared to you? What is odd about Mary's response? Why do you think she acts this way?

Why did God choose Mary to bear Jesus? What is special about her?

Mary is called "favored" or "graced." What does it mean to be graced by God?

Focus on Luke 1:31-33

What names, titles, & descriptors does Gabriel use to speak of Jesus?

What is the significance (now and then) for each of these?

What Old Testament promises are being referenced and fulfilled here?

Focus on Luke 1:34-35

How is the whole Trinity witnessed to, and at work here?

What are the implications of Jesus' conception involving a human mother and the divine power of the Father through the Spirit?

What does this mean for who/what Jesus is? For who/what Mary is?

What does it mean about how God views & relates to the physical world?

What other implications does the incarnation have on theology & reality?

Consider your own life:

Pastor Adam said that God initiates and we participate. How do you see that reality in the passages from Luke? Where else do you see it in the Bible?

What work of grace might God be initiating in your life and relationships?

What would Mary-like participation look like?

Who might God be providing as your "Elizabeth" in this season?

What action-step of faith will you take next?

Close by reading Jeremiah 33:14-18

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