

**may it be to me**

**[Luke 1.26-38]**

**the stories we tell**

**Mary's story**

Luke 1.26-38

a virgin pledged to be married

greetings!

chaire kecharitomene

the LORD is with you

do not be afraid, you have found grace

**questions**

**[what story are we telling?.01]**

**response**

**some things to consider**

Christmas is . . .

1 Corinthians 1.26-31

the story

overshadowed

how do you respond?

**[big questions]**

What disruptions do you experience during the Christmas season?

How might God want to interrupt your life this Christmas?

How will you respond?

**Memorize this-**

37 For no word from God will ever fail."

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

-Luke 1.37-38 (NIV)

**[what story are we telling?.01]**

What thought, idea or observation from this teaching did you find to be the most useful, encouraging, eye-opening or even troubling? Explain.

What are your favorite Christmas movies? What are the messages of those movies?

What is Christmas about for you? How does that compare with the biblical story of Christmas?

**Read Luke 1.26-38**

What do you imagine it was like to be Mary in this situation? Is there anything about her situation that you can relate to?

Look at the angel's message in v.28—Why do you think Mary would be troubled by that greeting? Do you ever find yourself troubled by the idea that not only is God giving you grace, but that He is also with you?

As Mary hears the description of what will happen, Mary says, "How can this be?" or "This doesn't make sense." Describe a time or situation when God was directing you to do something or believe something and you felt the same way. How often does this keep us from following through with what God is directing us to do?

The angel responds, not by getting after her for her questions, but by simply answering the question. How do we usually expect God to respond to our questions? Is that different than what we see the angel's response to be? Explain.

The angel backs up the message by telling Mary about another situation in which God is doing something. How can stories like this encourage us to trust? What stories have encouraged you to keep trusting?

This child is God's grace working in and literally through Mary-it won't necessarily be easy, but it will be good. Perhaps, part of entering the Christmas season appropriately is by surrendering to grace. What are some ways that you need to surrender to God's grace right now?

Christmas tends to be about gifts and when we try to do it right, we try to focus on giving gifts, but what if we started by receiving some gifts that God is offering us? What are some gifts that God may be offering you right now?

This all happened by Mary being 'overshadowed' by God. What does that mean? How do you need to let God overshadow you this Christmas season?

What are some ways that you need to trust that no word from God will ever fail? What effect could that have?

It seems that the core of the story is this: God is with us. Is that the story that you are telling this Christmas season by the way you live your life? What needs to change?