

## **“SERVICE Group” Interactive Discussion Guide**

**This Week’s Core Practice:** Single-mindedness, Matthew 6:33—I focus on God and his priorities for my life.

**SERVICE Focus: Evangelism**--We will invest our lives in at least three non-believers and commit to praying together for them monthly.

*[Download the I-Cubed and “Praying 4 You” resources from the Pastor’s Blog and use them as guides for this week’s SERVICE focus!]*

### **Option 1— Mary Pays Attention to God’s Angel, Luke 1:26-38**

(Plan 30 minutes for your “study time” by focusing on the \* questions and filling out your discussion with the other questions. Be sure to leave time for sharing personal requests and praying for one another.)

#### **Open It**

1. When was an occasion that you received an unexpected honor?
2. \*How do you tend to react when you receive unexpected good news?

#### **Explore It**

3. Who greeted Mary? Why? ([1:26-28](#))
4. How did Mary learn of her role in Jesus’ birth? ([1:26-28](#))
5. How did Mary feel when the angel appeared to her? ([1:29-30](#))
6. \*How did Gabriel describe the child that would be born to Mary? ([1:31-33](#))
7. What title would Jesus have? ([1:32](#))
8. What Old Testament personalities were part of Jesus’ royal line? ([1:32-33](#))
9. Why wasn’t Mary struck dumb by the angel as Zechariah was? ([1:34](#))
10. \*How did Mary’s response to the angel differ from Zechariah’s? ([1:34](#), [38](#))
11. Why did Gabriel mention Elizabeth’s pregnancy to Mary? ([1:36-37](#))
12. What kind of attitude was apparent in Mary’s response to the angel’s visit? ([1:38](#))
13. \*What did Mary’s final statement to Gabriel show about her relationship with God? ([1:38](#))

#### **Get It**

14. \*What do Mary’s responses to Gabriel tell us about the kind of people through whom God works?
15. In what different ways do people respond to the story of Christ’s birth?
16. What difference does it make whether or not a person believes that the child born to Mary was really the Son of God?
17. \*How has the fact that "with God, nothing is impossible" taken root in your life?
18. In what ways would you say Mary’s responses to Gabriel summarize what our relationship with God ought to be like?

#### **Apply It**

19. \*What "impossibilities" in your life do you want to thank God for this week?
20. What can you do to maintain a servant’s attitude as you live from day to day?
21. In what ways can you develop the kind of humble spirit that Mary had?

### **Option 2—Discussion of Sunday’s Sermon (slides posted on “Pastor’s Blog”)**

- What significance does the passage/message have for you today?
- What does the passage/message mean to you?
- What does the passage/message affect your life?
- What can we learn about God, Christ, ourselves, our responsibility, our relationship to others?
- How does it reinforce this week’s core commitment?
- What do you want to do in response?
- What do we want to do in response?
- What will you take away from the sermon? From our group?

### **Option 3—Relate Your Study to Our Core Commitments**

- What Core Commitment(s) does our study reinforce?
- What can we learn from this passage about this week’s Core Commitments?
- How can we live this passage individually? As a group?
- What do we agree to do in response to this passage?