

**LifeGroup Study Sheet****Dec 12<sup>th</sup> Encounter Christ and Serve – Luke 1:26-38**

This guide is designed to help prepare you for your group discussion.

**Quick Review**

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

**Introduction**

Describe a time in your life where you received shocking news. News you couldn't believe the first time you heard it. What was happening? Why was it so unbelievable? Keep that story in mind as you dive into the passage you are about to read! Put yourself in Mary's mindset and position!

**Digging In****Read Luke 1:26-38**

**Question 1: Read Luke 1:28. You have been picked to serve God!** Gabriel, the angel of God, told Mary that she had been specifically picked by God to bring Jesus into the world. It is important to note that God picked Mary because of His grace, not because she was "perfect" or "special." How does this idea change the way you think of God choosing you? Mary was a recipient of God's grace, not a giver of grace.

**Question 2: Read Luke 1:30-35. You have been powered to serve God!** Mary was being told that she was going to serve God in ways she couldn't even understand. Mary, a virgin to be married, was going to have a baby boy. This seemed impossible – but God was going to use His power through her.

Although none of us will be used by God in this specific way – God will use the Holy Spirit through us in ways for us to serve God. It is important to note that the power to serve God comes only through His Spirit.

How have you seen God work through your life in ways that you can only attribute to the Holy Spirit? Describe a time you've experienced that. Have you ever tried serving God but never depended on God's power to accomplish it?

**Question 3: Read Luke 1:36-37. You have been prompted to serve God.** The Word of God will prompt you serve God. You were given specific gifts to serve God. How has God gifted you to serve other people? What ways can you use your passions, time, abilities and giftings to serve God?

**Read Matthew 25:14-29**

How are you currently using your gifts/talents or wasting them?

**Question 4: Read Luke 1:38. You have been purposed to serve God.** Mary realizes that whatever God had called her to, she was going to do it. She actualized her purpose in life. To be God's servant. It was submitting to God's word and promise.

How has God called you to do that in your current context? At work, in your neighborhood, in your own family. How can God use you where you are right now?

**Praise / Prayer Requests**

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

**Adoration** – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

**Confession** – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving** – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

**Supplication** – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?