



advent 2019

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### MAKE HIM ROOM / ADVENT 2019

**Advent.** Despite being good news of great joy, this can be one of the busiest, most stressful, and for some, the darkest seasons of the year. What we wish was a time of joy and peace, is instead filled with the noise and busyness of Christmas activities, the stress of strained relationships, or the heaviness of loss and grief. In the midst of this, God is inviting us to let our hearts and minds be tuned to the good news of Christmas. This Advent, we invite you to make room for Jesus; to make room for the impossible, for the unexpected, for worship, and for hope.

*In addition to this discussion guide, Doxa has created a Daily Advent Devotional Guide to help you make room this Christmas. To find the daily guide, download the Doxa app from your app store on a phone or tablet or visit: [doxa-church.com/guides](http://doxa-church.com/guides).*

### PART 1: MAKE ROOM FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

#### READ THE TEXT: Luke 1:26-56

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose

name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”  
And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to  
her home.

God loves to take unlikely people and situations and bring about what would be impossible for humans. Nothing is impossible for Him. God had favor on the humble Mary and chose her to miraculously bring about the birth of Jesus. In her humility, Mary was both available, making space to hear from God, and faithful, quick to respond with urgency and obedience.

*If you're processing these questions as a missional community, take time to gauge whether these will best be answered in smaller groups or all together. Feel free to break into smaller "DNA-sized" groups if that's helpful.*

1. Just as He brought about the birth of Jesus through the virgin Mary, God loves to do seemingly impossible things to

show both His power and His care. Where have you seen God do impossible things in your life or in the lives of others? Share when you have seen this and how it revealed God's power and care in specific ways.

2. In His grace, God often does the impossible when we are available. To be available to God is to make room for Him to speak and to lead. Are you available? Do you make space for God to speak to you and lead you through His Spirit and His Word? What does that look like for you tangibly? What are some warning signs for your community to know that you may not be making space to hear from God?
3. In His grace, God also does the impossible when we are faithful. The faithful obedience Mary lives out is rooted in her confidence in the faithfulness of God. When we trust the faithful love of our good Father, we will be ready to obey Him, knowing whatever He calls us to is good. What lies about God do we often believe when we're hesitant to trust and obey His clear call for us? *If you're in DNA groups, share more specifically what distorted views of God are in your heart when you doubt Him and hesitate to obey Him.*
4. After hearing God's promise to her, Mary responded with worship and joy! How has God already been at work in and amongst us? How can we, like Mary rejoice in His work? Take time to thank God together for the ways He has done the impossible in your life.