

The Unexpected

Advent Family Discussion Guide

Session Two: The Promise

Luke 1:26-38

Description

After Zechariah unexpectedly receives word that he and his wife Elizabeth would conceive a child at a most unusual time in their lives, Mary in the town of Nazareth has her own plans upended. An angelic visitor shares a divine message, explaining that she would be the one whom God would use to bring the Christ child into the world. The divine selection of seemingly insignificant Mary demonstrates how a sovereign God can include us in His plans, which are greater than our own. Mary's response also demonstrates how to respond to life change. What many would consider to be inconveniences, they are divine interruptions which God uses for a higher purpose than we could ever imagine.

How to use

This session is offered for adults on RightNow Media and comes with a companion discussion guide. This guide that you hold is designed for families to discuss as they embrace the hope of Advent this season. Adults and teenage children may benefit from the study session videos. Younger children will likely prefer simply covering the items in this devotional guide. Parents would be wise to preview the videos before showing them to their children.

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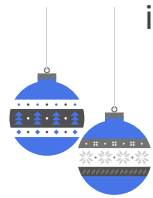
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What is your favorite Christmas song? (Consider singing these songs together.)

Which Christmas songs fill us with joy about Christmas?

The angel Gabriel told Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus. She was initially a little scared and wondered how this could happen, but she later sang joyfully to God that she could play a big part in God's promise to the world.



Read [Luke 1:26-38](#) together.

What final answer did Mary give to Gabriel's announcement? (Yes: "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be according to the word of the Lord.")

Mary faced hard times by saying yes to God's announcement. She did not know how Joseph would respond, and it was very difficult to be an unmarried mother in her day. Neighbors and friends were often mean to the mother and the child.

What difficult things might we experience by obeying God?

Why should we say yes to the things God wants us to do?

Mary received God's message from an angel. How do we usually hear from God? (The Bible, godly friends, parents, teachers)

Because God keeps His promises and takes care of us, we can trust and obey Him. In what ways has God taken care of you?



Close in prayer, thanking God for including us in His promises.