



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide Christmas at Rock Bridge – Part 1 ACTIVITY GROUP GUIDE

ICE BREAKER:

- What are you most looking forward to about the Christmas season?

MAIN POINT:

- *God's gift of life is fulfilled in an unexpected way in unexpected circumstances for the good of humanity and advancement of God's kingdom.*

Passage(s) to Read: Luke 1:26-37

Passage Summary: *Unexpected circumstances in life can be interpreted as good/gift or bad/curse. The former is Mary's response, but it could have been different. Our reactions are based on how we see/understand God's character and how we see/understand God's kingdom.*

DISCUSSION:

1. In the Luke passage, what are some things that God does that are unexpected, and frankly, inconvenient? How might she have interpreted this as a harsh act by God, even though the honor would be great?
2. How did Mary respond to the Angel's testimony? What are some fears she faced and how did she likely respond in her thoughts to her fears?
3. What is going on in your own life that is unexpected and challenging? Share it with the group and talk about how you should respond to the challenge.

STEPS OF OBEDIENCE

- This week have everyone in the group commit to praying for someone else, and his or her challenging circumstance.
- Commit to texting the other person in your group to encourage them in their prayer.

PRAYER TIME

- Get in groups of twos or threes and pray for each other for what is going on in their lives.
- If anyone in the group has a special prayer request, make sure that is shared with the group.