

Group/Individual Study

Series: Christmas Hope Wherever you are : Bewildered in Nazareth

Passages: Luke 1:26-38

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 12/3

1. Read Luke 1:26-38. How many reasons can you find in these verses for Mary to be “bewildered”? Name as many as you can.
2. “Central casting” in heaven often confounds worldly wisdom because God seems to choose the most unlikely people to do His work in the world. Why was Mary an unlikely choice to be the “heroine” in this story? Have you ever felt unqualified for something God seemed to be asking you to go through or do? How did you get through that time?
3. Consider Mary’s stunning response in verse 38. Consider it up against a cultural background where being expelled from her family and village -- not to mention a shameful end to her engagement to Joseph were all possible outcomes. What do you think went on in Mary for her to be able to say “yes” to God’s plan? Do things you see in her inspire you? Why?
4. Part of what Gabriel spends time telling Mary about is the destiny God has on the life of the child she will bear. Name as many of these elements as you can from what Gabriel reveals about the child? Which of these pieces of Jesus’ identity means the most to you today? Why?
5. Reread Luke 1:38. Mary submitted herself to God’s plan without understanding how all of it could work out. She said, “I am the Lord’s servant. May your word to me be fulfilled.” Is there a place in your life where you need to submit to God’s plan -- even if it’s scary -- in a similar way?