

Luke 1:28-45 Mary **12/9/18**

Read the passage each day and take one question to hear from God.

1. The angel began by saying to Mary, "*Greetings you who are highly favored. The Lord is with you.*" What types of things would most people think would go along with being "favored?" Why is it surprising that Mary had favor with the Lord? How does her being favored help you to believe that you are favored by the Lord?
2. Review Luke 1:30-33. Mary was given an eternal purpose, but was filled with confusion and fear. In your life, how is God calling you to an eternal purpose that causes you confusion and fear? How might His words, "Do not be afraid, [add your name]" help you to live more boldly into His purposes? Try repeating them daily over the next week.
3. Focus on Luke 1:37 "*For no word from God will ever fail.*" The angel states these words as reassurance to Mary. If you had to rephrase this line how would you write it to yourself or another?
4. In Luke 1:38 Mary makes an amazing proclamation: "*I am the Lord's servant,*" Mary answered. "*May your word to me be fulfilled.*" Then the angel left her. How does this parallel the words of Jesus in Luke 22:42? What do you find remarkable and challenging about this posture before the Lord?
5. Mary, like Jesus, was willing to "bow down" to the LORD and honor His plan and request. To "bow down" is to surrender. How is God calling you to "bow down" with Him in an area of your life?

Weekly Family Activity

Families with Younger Children (Prek-2nd Grade)

Have them draw out this scene on paper in their own design. Ask them to "re-tell" the story once they've done drawing it up. It gives you as a parent the chance to see what they remember and can see their artwork in full display. Legos, playdough or other resources can be used as well to help with this idea.

Later Elementary to Early Middle School (3-6th Grade)

Challenge the family to act out the scene. Have a full-on drama class in your living room. Encourage your kids to engage with the story. The best part is you're doing this with them to create a great memory. After you re-enact the story, ask a child to read the text again to see if they notice anything different.

Middle School to High School (7-12th Grade)

Give them a wrapped box with something they already own in it. Ask them to unwrap it. They'll catch on soon, but it's a great time to talk about how they felt when they realized this is something they already have. We already have the favor and blessing of Jesus when we have a relationship with Him, but we need to actively and daily seek Him so we can see what is in store for us that day. We need to not just assume all of what Jesus have for us is a shiny "new" gift, but maybe a gift we already have in our possession. We just need to embrace what we already have.