

Small Group Discussion Questions

// Week of December 10th, 2023

LEADER INFO

Christmas Services:

- December 23rd: 4pm
- December 24th: 9:30am, 11:15am, 4pm, 6pm
- Please go to <https://southsidelife.com/christmas> and register for your FREE tickets for those services. We are expecting thousands of people and want make sure that we can fit everyone in!

Events:

- Text "NEWS" to 604-670-3040 to start up to date with all of the events at the church!

GROW This section is based on the sermon from Sunday. You can find it here:
<https://www.southsidelife.com/>

ICE BREAKER Have you started your Christmas shopping?

Let It Be

Read

1. Luke 1:26-28

26-28 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:

Good morning!
You're beautiful with God's beauty,
Beautiful inside and out!
God be with you.

29-33 She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.

He will be great,
be called 'Son of the Highest.'
The Lord God will give him
the throne of his father David;
He will rule Jacob's house forever—
no end, ever, to his kingdom."

34 Mary said to the angel, "But how? I've never slept with a man."

35 The angel answered,

The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
the power of the Highest hover over you;
Therefore, the child you bring to birth
will be called Holy, Son of God.

36-38 “And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six months pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible with God.”

And Mary said,

Yes, I see it all now:

I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve.

Let it be with me

just as you say.

Then the angel left her.

Discussion

1. God comes to where you are

- a. Pastor Mike shared a story about how he and his buddy Grant King were almost stuck on a ski mountain because Pastor Mike lost the keys to his car while coming down the mountain. But his friend was incredibly handy and managed to get into the car, hot-wire it, and find a way to keep it running. Pastor Mike joked that he wasn't even qualified to hold the flashlight because he kept getting distracted and shining it in his friends eyes while he was trying to work. Grant did all the work, and Pastor Mike got to just get in the car.
- b. This is what our relationship with God is like. We are stuck and God comes to where we are and does all the work; and we aren't even qualified to hold the flashlight! Our job is to just get in the car and go. God has great plans for us ahead but sometimes we are afraid to take hold of them. Or maybe we are content with where we are at and don't want more. But God is always calling us to more. If you're known Jesus for 2 months or 20 years, you need him as much as you ever have!

- i. What is holding you back from stepping into what's next? How can the group support what is next for you?

2. God answers the questions you have

- a. The angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her that she would become pregnant. And she asked "but how" I haven't had sex yet." That really happened! It is difficult for us to think what it would have been like to be in that moment... It's almost an awkward question. But God is not afraid of our questions.
- b. Maybe there are some doubts, frustrations, and questions that you have had lately. God loves them. He wants us to be truth seekers.
 - i. Are there things lately that have caused you to have some doubts, frustrations, and questions?

3. God gives you the delights of your heart

- a. Mary said to the angel, "let it be with me just as you say" as a 14 year old girl. I wonder what she would have said to Dr. Luke when he was interviewing her 60+ years later. After seeing all the incredible things through Jesus' life, the heartbreak of watching him on the cross, seeing him resurrected and then ascend to heaven. It was quite the life she lived. I'm sure even at the end of her life she would have said "let it be with me just as you say".
- b. God asks us in different moments to step out and do something that we hadn't been thinking about. For Pastor Mike, God spoke to him at Trinity Western and asked him to be a teacher instead of a lawyer. And then later in life to change careers at 38 years old from being a teacher to being a Youth Pastor. Even though it wasn't in his plans, Pastor Mike said "let it be with me just as you say".
 - i. Do you have a "let it be with me just as you say" moment with God?
 - ii. Maybe you're in a moment like that right now!

PRAY