

The Heart of Christmas

Discussion Guide

Week of December 3 - **"Surrendering"** - "May it happen to me as you have said."

Scripture verse: Luke 1:26-38

LOOKING BACK:

Last time, we were challenged to spend 10 minutes each day focused on asking God how you can love your neighbor. How did you do? What did the Holy Spirit say to your heart?

OPENING QUESTION: Many times, we approach something with a pre-determined conclusion about how it should be done, and we push that agenda. When we face a roadblock, disappointment, or failure, we realize everything we have done just makes a bigger mess. When you come to the end of yourself, there is an opportunity to look towards God. When is a time you did not yield to someone else's idea because you thought you knew better, and everything blew up in your face?

LEADER'S NOTE: For example: like a situation at work or a child who doesn't listen to advice.

LOOKING UP:

Our culture tells us to chase our dreams, follow our hearts, do what we think is best. Each of these statements leads us to believe we are best served by following our own agendas. When in your planning process do you invite God into the following:

- using your money?
- maintaining your marriage?
- raising your children?
- planning your future?

LEADER'S NOTE: Do not accept pat answers for this question. Did they ask for God's input today? This week?

Ask someone in your group to read the passage listed below. Then ask the first two questions to your group.

<p>READ THE PASSAGE Luke 1:26-38</p> <p>Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What stood out to you most? 2. What was challenging or hard to understand? 3. What does this teach us about God? 4. What does this teach us about people? 	<p>RE-READ THE PASSAGE</p> <p>Read the passage again using another Bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions</p>
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LOOKING FORWARD:

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal which area of your life needs the most attention? (using your money, maintaining your marriage, raising your children, planning your future)

Mary declared, "I am the Lord's Servant," and was willing to do whatever He said. What steps do you need to take to be a willing servant who obeys what the Holy Spirit is telling you to do? A helpful posture would be to start by asking for forgiveness for not including Him in your plans. What is it

going to take for you to yield to God instead of God having to force you to yield?

Have group members pair up to become accountability partners in working through submitting to the Lord. Ask them to be prepared to share next time if they experienced any progress in listening and obeying.