

ADVENT: HOPE AND PEACE
LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Sermon Date: Sunday, December 7, 2025

Sermon Passage: Luke 1:26-38; 44-45

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This Week's Main Takeaway

There are moments in Scripture where heaven bends so close to earth that you can almost hear the heartbeat of God. Luke 1 is one of those moments—an ordinary village and an unnoticed young woman. And then an angel, carrying a message that would ignite hope through generations.

This Week's Memory Verse

Luke 1:37 (NIV), "For no word from God will ever fail."

Five Inductive Questions

1. GOD :: What does this passage imply about God?

God fills us with His presence (v. 35).

God says come to me, and He will do it. Remember, He is most on display in our weakness. Verse 37 is a powerful reminder that “nothing will be impossible with God.” His presence is still active today.

Verse 35 tells us that “The Holy Spirit will come upon you (Mary).” The answer to Mary’s question (v. 34 – “How will this be?”) about how she could get pregnant without having sexual relations with a man is that the Holy Spirit would overshadow her and cause her to conceive. Because the Holy Spirit was the agent of conception, the child (the holy One; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15) would be the Son of God (CSB Study Bible Notes). By the power of the Holy Spirit and the power of God the Father, a body was prepared for God the Son, who would be brought forth by Mary. (Exalting Jesus in Luke Commentary).

What does “nothing being impossible with God” tell you about God and how we should respond?

2. MAN :: What does this passage imply about *man*?

We have favor with God (v. 30).

Genesis 1 affirms this because from the very beginning of time, we are created in God's image. We did nothing to earn it. Because we have favor with God, like Mary, we have a specific role to play (vs. 31-33). Since we have found favor with God (v. 28), this should stir us to hope. One commentator says, "Mary was favored because the Lord set his undeserved grace upon her, not because she had earned good standing." Yet, as we read, Mary is afraid (v. 29)—the Lord greets her with words that shake her: "Do not be afraid" (the same thing told to Zechariah). Mary did not doubt God's existence; she was troubled because in the presence of heaven, she became aware of how small she is. The difference between Mary's response (How can this be) and Zechariah's (v. 18) is that Mary asked her question not from unbelief but from puzzlement (CSB Study Bible Notes). Mary was saying, "Yes," to something that would make her an outcast from humanity.

If your yes to Jesus meant no to everyone else, would you do it? How does this change how you see life and make decisions?

3. PROMISE :: Is there a *promise* to claim in this passage?

Fulfilled in God (vs. 44-45).

In Latin, Advent means "coming" or "arrival." In this passage, we see hope that leaps and a peace that overshadows. The angel Gabriel told Mary words we still need to hear today, "*The Lord is with you*" (v. 28). There are moments in Scripture where heaven bends so close to earth that you can almost hear the heartbeat of God. Luke 1 is one of those moments.

This passage tells us that Elizabeth told Mary, "As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy." The baby (John) being "filled with the Holy Spirit" (v. 15) fulfilled Gabriel's prediction to Zechariah. But Elizabeth was filled with the Spirit also (v. 41), and the Spirit's revelations to her were apparently the source of her knowledge about the blessed roles and identities of Mary and her unborn child. When baby John leaped inside Elizabeth, she understood that he had experienced great joy at Mary's presence (CSB Study Bible Notes).

4. COMMAND :: Is there a *command* to obey in this passage?

We are the Lord's servants (v. 38).

The words Mary says in verse 38 are the posture of a true disciple. She trusted the One whose words will never fail. One commentator put it this way: "The only way a person can genuinely say what Mary says is to believe that God's plan is better than our plans for ourselves. Like Mary, we can't truly be servants of Christ unless we accept His plan for our lives. He cannot be our Lord if we

insist on ruling ourselves. If He is Lord, then we are servants—glad servants of God. This is how faith replies to grace.”

5. REPENT :: Reflecting on this portion of God’s Word, what can I *repent* of this week?

Where is God inviting you to believe again?

Sources:

CSB Study Bible Notes (B&H Publishing)

Exalting Jesus in Luke (Holman Publishers)