

Group Leader Guide
Series: Christmas Week 1
Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Leader Notes:

Be sure to sign up for the essential group leader training in January by clicking this [link](#).

BORN THAT MEN NO MORE MAY DIE!

The Christmas season is busy, and full of distractions. As a group leader, be sure to challenge people not to miss the reason for the season! We are celebrating the King who came to die so that we may live!

COMMUNITY

Open the group by caring for one another and allowing a moment for everyone to have a place to belong.

- Start the group by taking prayer requests, finding out about people's week, and praying for one another.
- Ice Breakers:
 1. What is your favorite Christmas Tradition or Christmas Carol?

SCRIPTURE

Take this time to study the Bible together. Remember, the goal is not just to convey information, but to help people in your group learn to read the Bible for themselves.

THE POINT: God ordained the Lord's Supper to remind believers of the victory achieved by his sacrifice.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Study Notes

When we start to read Luke 1:26-38 we need to understand that this is the announcement of a Savior. This is the announcement of the impending arrival of the Savior of the world in the oddest of ways. He is not coming at the helm of an army surrounded by powerful generals. He is going to be carried by the arms of a teenage mother who has never known a man. Even more astonishing, this teenage mother is from Nazareth, a backwoods city in the backwater of Galilee.

As taken in the announcement of Christ's coming, we are taught a great deal about the gospel.

First, we see that the gospel is about Jesus coming to the lowly, broken, and helpless, not the impressive, the haughty, or mighty. Jesus being born of a Nazarene reminds us that the gospel is not about merit, but about grace. Jesus loves us because he loves us, not because we deserve it.

Second, we see that the gospel is about God solving the problems of humanity. That Jesus is the Son of God tells us that God is coming to solve the problems of the human race himself. So often, we get consumed with looking for solutions to human problems in human places. The Son of God comes to us to show us that only God has the answers to our problems.

Questions For Discussion

1. **How does the angel encourage Mary in verses 28-31?** Have you ever experienced God's grace or favor in an unusual way? Talk about it. How did it feel? How did you respond?
2. **In (Luke 1:32) Gabriel says that Jesus will be "great."** Then he describes four things that Jesus will be or have or do. What are they? What is important about these descriptors?
3. **Our concept of kingship these days is pretty shallow, mostly centering around the foibles of the British royal family.** What power did kings have in the ancient world? What would it mean to have a king whose kingdom would never end?
4. **What does it mean for us today that Jesus is a king, an eternal king, whose kingdom will never end?** Where do you think his kingdom is today? How might this change or enlarge your concept of Jesus? How does it honestly make you feel about him?
5. **What progression do you see in Mary's responses in (Luke 1:29, 34, 38)?** How does Gabriel answer her question about how this could happen (v. 35-37)? Have you ever experienced going from confusion to questioning to faith? What was the situation?
6. **What do you think the angel's statement in (Luke 1:37) meant for Mary?** What could it mean for you today?

Commission

As your wrap group up, it is imperative that everyone knows we go into the world on mission for Jesus. Use this time to focus everyone as you leave.

Christmas is a reminder that God has come to do the impossible. What do you need him to do for you?

Who in your life needs to know Jesus?