



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

**STUDENT
MINISTRY**

DEC 20
SMALL GROUP GUIDE | MS/HS

DECEMBER'S THEME

**ANOTHER CHRISTMAS
STORY**

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

BOTTOM LINE Jesus birth changes
the world

MEMORY VERSES 1:38

LIFE APP Treat Jesus like a leader of
a movement and not a character in a
story.

**WORSHIP
CONNECT**

- Tonight we will start with a Christmas “hymn sing” where the kids will be able to pick out songs from a song book.

MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT:

**THINK
ABOUT THIS**

Our third installment of our Another Christmas Story series is about Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary's story is often read as if it is a nice way to have a baby. However, when you give it a second reading, you will see that what Mary understood was that God was using her for something that had been anticipated for more than 500 years. The son that she was about to have wasn't only the source of a nice skit on Christmas eve, but the initiator of a new movement of God that would benefit the poor, the weak, and the powerless in our world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- People are able to make a lot of assumptions about you based on where you live. What are some of those assumptions? What is the author trying to say by including Mary's home town of Nazareth compared to Jerusalem? **Nazareth is a no-name small town outside of Jerusalem. There are Jews there, but they are not important or powerful like the Jews who live in Jerusalem. So, people would normally assume that if someone important was going to be born, they would come from where the important families are. Regular people lived in the country towns.**
- Do you ever feel like church people treat men and women differently? Why do you think that is? What does Mary's role say to that dynamic, if anything? **This text seems to suggest that the purpose of God is genderless, which is to say that the important factor is the purpose, not the gender. Men and women are not specifically type-casted in God's work in the world.**
- What would you do if you found out you had royalty in your family tree and that that royalty still meant something? **Luke goes out of his way to make sure that we know that they are from the family of David who was the most important king in their history.**
- Why do you think that the greeting that the angel gives Mary is important? **This isn't a greeting that she would have ever received. It is reserved for the rich and powerful. It seems that Luke is saying that even though she occupies the social level that she does that because of God she is rich in a new kind of way.**
- What is Mary's reaction to the announcement? **She is “confused and disturbed” and she asks, “how will this happen.”** What would your reaction be to such an announcement? What would your first question to the angel have



been? What is Mary's? Why?

- The angel tells Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, is having a baby too. Where does Elizabeth's story take place? **It begins in the Temple in Jerusalem.** Where does Mary's story take place? **In the country where regular people live.** Why is it significant that Mary make her way to Elizabeth from where she is? **This is the same path that Jesus takes on his way into Jerusalem on what we celebrate as "Palm Sunday."** The king is supposed to come from the city or the Temple. Jesus comes from the country and the people. This whole action seems to say to the current leadership in Jerusalem, **"you're not legitimate in the eyes of God."** Where else in the gospel does Jesus take this trip?
- What do you think would motivate a response like the one that Mary gave to the angel? Read Luke 1:46-55 to find out. Do you think this is why she didn't ask "why?" but instead asked "how?" What do you think Mary's song would sound like today? Why do you say that? **The question "how" seems to have moved past her issues about this detour in her life directly to how it would happen. Modern readers are much more concerned with how God fits into their lives rather than how they fit into God's. It is an important distinction.**



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EXTRAS

2,4,6,8,10 Minutes of Silence

What You Need: Timer and a chair

What you Do: One of the ways that the devil works against our relationship with God is by filling our lives with noise. Our devices, advertising, social pressures, and our own inner-monologue drown out the still small voice of God in our lives. So, this week, your challenge is to begin a practice of silence. Start this week with two minutes, and each week add two more.

Here's how: Find a chair where you can sit upright. Put both feet flat on the floor, place your hands on your knees, palms up, and close your eyes. Take a deep breath, drawing air from your tummy. A real breath starts low, not high. Draw in the breath as far as you can through your nose, and then exhale through your mouth. If your mind wanders, and it will, press deeper into each breath. The point is not to focus on anything. If thoughts come to your mind, let them go. Don't hold onto them, don't analyze them, just let them come and go with each breath.

JUST FOR FUN

Jingle Bell Rock and Roll

What You Need: ball ornaments and Jingle Bells

What You Do: Place five ball ornaments lined up on the end of a table and give the player 10 jingle bells and have them stand on the opposite end of the rectangle table. To play, players must roll their jingle bells from one end of the table and attempt to knock off all five ornaments from the opposite end of the table.