

Introduction:

1. Describe an occasion where you received an unexpected honor or unexpected good news. How did you react?
2. Describe an ordinary person you know or know of, who you see God using in a special way.

Understanding:

3. The angel told Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." Mary needed to allow God to supernaturally work through her to offer and yield herself to Him. Compare this to Romans 12:1-2. How do these verses connect what happened to Mary to your own day-to-day Christian life?
4. Read Luke 1:8-20. Compare what happened to Mary and to Zechariah after each was confronted by an angel. Both questioned the angel. Why do you think the angel was more patient with Mary than with Zechariah?
5. If Mary had said "No" would it have destroyed God's plan of salvation? Why or why not?
6. So if you think God would never do anything supernatural through you, because you're not good enough...not holy enough...you don't pray enough...read what the famous apostle Paul wrote about himself in 2 Corinthians 8:9. If you think that you can't be used by God, how does the truth here change your thinking?
7. Read today's passage again. Explain how even though Mary was a part of the plan, it was NOT about her. How does that connect to your own plans?
8. There's a difference between asking God to bless our plans, and offering ourselves to God to follow His plans. Read James 4:3. What does this teach us about turning to follow God's plans?
9. How does today's sermon change what you have always known and believed about Mary?
10. Do you sense a grace shortage in your life? Sometimes we put up obstacles to grace. Read James 4:6. What kind of heart change can we ask the Lord for?

Application:

11. God wants to get every one of us to the point where we are ready for God to do miraculous things through us. How has the fact that "with God, nothing is impossible" taken root in your life? How does knowing we don't need to earn it help us here?
12. What is the situation in your life where you need to say: "Lord, I don't know exactly how this is going to work, but I know you've put me here and called me to this. And I'm not going to run away from it; I'm not going to take the easy way out. So, my answer is 'Yes.' I'm your servant. Use me however you want."