

Announcing Christmas – Small Group Discussion Guide

The Angel and Mary

Text: Luke 1:26–38

Warm-Up

- When you see a baby—whether in your family, church, or community—what kinds of questions or hopes naturally come to mind about who they might become?
- Why do you think questions about identity and future matter so much to us?

Observation – What Does the Text Say?

1. How does Luke describe Mary and her situation in verses 26–27? What details stand out as surprising or significant?
2. What does Gabriel announce about the child Mary will conceive (vv. 31–33)? Make a list of the titles or descriptions given to Jesus.
3. How does Mary respond to the angel's message in verse 34? How is her question different from Zechariah's earlier response (Luke 1:18)?
4. According to verses 35–37, how does Gabriel explain how this will happen?
5. How does the scene conclude in verse 38, and what does this reveal about Mary's posture before God?

Interpretation – What Does It Mean?

Jesus, the Son of Mary

- Why is it important that Jesus is given a common human name and born to a real human mother?
- How does the reality of Jesus' full humanity shape the way we understand the incarnation—and Christmas itself?
- How does the contrast between sentimental nativity scenes and the realities of a stable deepen our understanding of Jesus' humility?

Jesus, the Son of David

- Why does Luke emphasize Joseph's connection to David (vv. 26–27)?
- How do Gabriel's words echo Old Testament promises like 2 Samuel 7 and Psalm 2?
- What is the significance of a king whose kingdom will never end? How does this reshape expectations of power and authority?

Jesus, the Son of God

- How does Gabriel describe the role of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' conception (v. 35)?
- Why is it important to see this as creation language rather than biological or sexual language?
- What does it mean to confess that Jesus is one person with two complete natures—fully human and fully divine?

Application – How Do We Respond?

- As the Son of Mary, will Jesus be your Savior—the one who delivers you from sin and death?
- As the Son of David, will Jesus be your King—the one with rightful authority over your life?
- As the Son of God, will Jesus be your Lord—the one you worship, trust, and obey?

Living the Question This Advent

- Which aspect of Jesus' identity do you find easiest to embrace? Which is hardest?
- Where might God be inviting you, like Mary, to respond with trust rather than full understanding?
- What would it look like for you to echo Mary's words this week: "I am the Lord's servant...may it be to me as you have said"?

Prayer

Close by praying together:

- In gratitude that Jesus truly entered our world as one of us
- In submission to Jesus as the eternal King
- In worship of Jesus as the Son of God
- Asking for hearts that respond faithfully to who Christ truly is