

December 15, 2019

Favored by God
Luke 1:26-38
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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

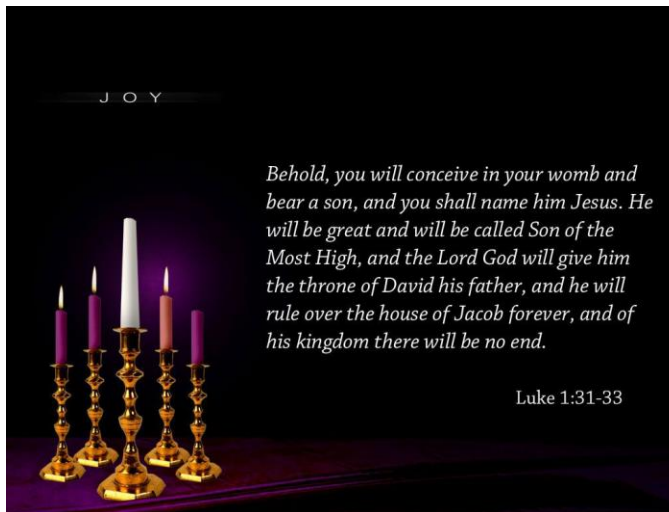
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



The season of Christmas is here. This week we will look at Luke Chapter 1, often referred to as the birth announcement. It is a time to celebrate the coming of the Savior of the world. The whole earth is given the blessing of the Messiah, and offered the gift of grace from Christ. While Mary also receives the gift of the Messiah, the child does not come without a cost for her. She is a young girl anticipating starting a family with a great guy and then she has to tell him she is already pregnant. Her life is turned upside down like she could have never imagined. Ultimately she has to endure watching her first born son die a horrific death on the cross. While she is blessed and favored she still must endure suffering and heartache. Join us this week as we celebrate the coming of the Savior and start to understand the balance between blessing and trials.



Luke 1:26-38 (NASB)

Jesus' Birth Foretold

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you." ²⁹ But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. ³⁰ 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 name Him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father

David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Why is it important that Mary was a virgin?

9. Why is Joseph's family line important?

10. What does it mean that Jesus will be given the throne of David?

11. What titles are given to Jesus in this section?

12. What is Mary's response?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

13. Mary was favored by God but she also experienced suffering. Does this give us insight to suffering we may have in our life?

14. Mary was favored and received great blessing. Does God still give blessing today? Do people receive blessing because of the way they live?

15. What did Mary have to give up to walk in the will of God? What should we be willing to give up to do the will of God?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes