

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Let It Be**

LUKE 1:26-38

OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinful men. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe his claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection insures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

APPLY // LUKE 1:5-25

1. Read Luke 1:5-25.
2. One of the questions Luke 1:5-25 seems to be asking is this: What's bigger, our problems or God's promises? How does Luke help us see that God does what seems impossible to us? What promises of God bring you comfort? How do we need to be careful in applying God's promises to our lives?
3. Verse 14 says John's greatness before the Lord will bring joy and gladness to Zechariah and Elizabeth? Is this where you find your joy and gladness, in God's definition of greatness, in being right before him? How does the world tempt us to define greatness and find our gladness in other things?
4. Name several ways this passage shows the faithfulness of God. How does this bring comfort during hard times? Joy in happy times?

STUDY // LUKE 1:26-38

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Luke 1:26-38.
2. According to verse 26-27, in which town are Mary and Joseph? What stage of life are they in? How does this compare the location and life-stage of Zechariah and Elizabeth? What do these differences tell us about God's purposes and plans?
 - a. Note: Nazareth was a small, insignificant town (see John 1:46), compared to Jerusalem, the all-important capital city. Zechariah and Elizabeth are well-advanced in years, while Mary and Joseph are young.
3. What does it mean that Joseph was "of the house of David"? Why is this significant?
4. In verse 27, how is Mary described? Why is this significant?
5. In verse 28, how does the angel greet Mary? Why is Mary chosen?

6. What is Mary's immediate response? How then does the angel respond? The angel says, "Do not be afraid." Why is Mary to not be afraid?
 7. In verse 32 Gabriel says that Jesus will be "great." Then he describes four things that Jesus will be or have or do.
 - a. What are they?
 - b. What do these four things have in common?
 - c. What do these four things tell us about Jesus?
 - d. How do these promises reveal the faithfulness of God?
 8. What's Mary's response in verse 34? How is it different than Zechariah's?
 - a. Note: Whereas Zechariah's question seems to stem from doubt, Mary's seems to come from confusion. In other words, Zechariah asks, "Can you do this, God?" while Mary asks, "How will you do this, God?"
 9. What progression do you see in Mary's responses in verses 29, 34, and 38? How does Gabriel answer her question about how this could happen (verses 35-37)?
 10. Luke 1:5-38, tells the story of two "impossible" births. Can you think of other extraordinary births in the story of God's people? Why do you think God acts in this way? What does this tell us about the character of God?
 11. There's so much more in this passage...what else do you notice?
 12. How would you succinctly answer this question: Why did Luke put these verses in his Gospel?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Are there areas in life where your problems appear bigger than God's promises? What promise from Scripture can you meditate on to bring balm to your soul?