

# Mental

## God Came for Justice

LUKE 1:26-38

SESSION 6.51



### ☐ *Prepare in Advance*

In advance of the session, prepare the following:

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.
- As facilitator, take a few minutes to review the events leading up to the Christmas story, especially as told by Luke (chapters 1-2).

### ☐ *Introduce*

Introduce today's session: Review the events that surround Jesus' birth – go all the way back to the announcement of John. You might even write a brief timeline of the events as you remember them. What themes stand out? In what manner do we see God working?

Invite someone to read Luke 1:26-38 out loud and then show the *Bible Background Video*.

Use the following questions to guide discussion.

### ☐ *Mary's Willingness*

- We tend to gloss over this visit from an angel. In the Old Testament, angels appeared to important people at significant times, and their appearance sometimes caused people to cower in fear.
- Take a few moments to talk about Mary's many possible feelings during this encounter.
- Why would she be curious about the angel's greeting (v. 29)?
- What do we learn about Jesus from the angel's instructions (vv. 30-33)?
- What is Mary's initial question (34)? Summarize the angel's response (35-37).
- What are the implications for Mary – in her family, her community, her upcoming marriage, her life? Considering this, what other questions might she have asked of the angel?
- Why is it significant that she did NOT ask these kinds of questions?

### ☐ *God's Choice*

- Think again through the events surrounding the Christmas story. We can learn a lot about what God will do through Jesus – not just seeing WHAT God does, but HOW God does it. What do we learn about God's plan when we consider the inclusion of...
  - An elderly couple considered cursed because they couldn't have children (John's parents)?
  - A young woman who's never had a child?
  - A well-respected man about to be married?
  - The insignificant towns of Nazareth and Bethlehem?
  - A barn and a feeding trough?

### ☐ *Common shepherds?*

- What have become the common themes of the Christmas holiday season – for Christians, and for others who celebrate without the religious significance?
- Considering the themes we've talked about above, what should be included in our Christmas celebrations?
- How might we, even today a few days before Christmas, bring this focus back into our celebrations?

Close with prayer.

*By Jon Parks*

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