



## Mary: Interruptions and Invitations

### Introduction

This Christmas we're learning to fear less. The angels began their visits to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds with the words, "Do not be afraid." God provides peace in the middle of uncertainty. He doesn't ignore your fears. He steps into them.

### Pray

Don't forget that if anything significant happens, it's because God moved. Start by asking God to bless this time.

### Practice Truth

1. Do you think it's possible to live fearlessly? Is that even wise?
2. Are there any "what if's" that cause you fear? If so, what are they and how do those fears affect you?
3. Have you experienced a life interruption? Think: relationally, spiritually, financially, vocationally, physically, medically, etc... How did you respond? Why?
4. What we call interruptions are often God's invitations to something better. When have you seen that to be true in other Bible stories? How about in life today?
5. Mary and Zechariah were both skeptical of the angel's word. Why was Mary honored and Zachariah muted? How should that impact how you respond to God's promises?
6. In regards to Mary receiving favor, Dirk said, "It's God's grace that made Mary special and it's God's grace that makes you special too" Have you experienced this favor? How?

#### Leader's Tip

In addition to social events outside of group time, you may want to have your group serve together.

### Do Life Together

What is one step of obedience that God is asking you to take? It could be to believe something, trust someone, reach out to a friend, or offer forgiveness. Pray and obey!

Our two key prayers this week are: "God, help me to confront with a heart to restore" and "God, help me to see when I am being critical". When have you seen criticism in your own life? What did or will you do about it?