

Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Big Reveal” Luke 1:38-44 & John 1:29, 19:26-27 Dec 16/17

Getting Started

The suspense of “Unwrapping Christmas” is found in the possibility of three aspects meeting at the intersection of hope and healing: “It can’t be”, becoming “it could be”, proving “it will be”!

Share with us about the best present you ever unwrapped... even better if you knew it was going to be something great but you weren't sure what it was :)

Going Deeper

- I. The BEHOLD of Mary: Acceptance: Luke 1:38 “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord.”
 - a. Statement of Submission: The word “Servant” means bondservant.
 - i. Rights - I am not the final authority.
 - ii. Regards - I am not my own.

Most of us struggle with the idea of daily laying our lives down and fully submitting to Jesus. We are much more likely to ‘believe’ the right things about Jesus, but it’s much harder to let Jesus live in us, and obey His promptings. How do you handle this struggle?

- b. Statement of Sincerity: “let it be to me according to your word” (38)
 - i. Faith - confident hope in the unseen.
 - ii. Faithful - willing to embrace shame.

Mary was willing to embrace the shame of being gossiped about because no one would know or believe how she really became pregnant! What would it feel like for you to allow people to believe something about you that wasn't true? What if God put you in a situation that would require you to be gossiped about? How would you handle that?

II. The BEHOLD of Elizabeth: Affirmation: Luke 1:40-44

- a. Confirmed by the Sound: “heard the greeting of Mary” (41)
- b. Confirmed by the Sensation: “baby leaped in her womb” (41)
- c. Confirmed by the Spirit: “filled with the Holy Spirit” (41)

The supernatural announcement Mary and Joseph received from the angels was bolstered by Elizabeth. When God tells you something or you feel prompted by God to do something differently, how do you receive confirmation of God’s voice to you?

III. The BEHOLD of John the Baptist: Announcement: John 1:29

- a. Someone of Significance: “Behold”
- b. Symbol of Sacrifice: “Lamb of God”
- c. Save from Sin : “Takes Away the Sin”
- d. Scope of Salvation: “Of the World”

People were talking about John the Baptist because he was living a righteous life and calling others to repent of their wrong beliefs and get right with God. This announcement was very bold as it made it clear that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies and promises of a coming Savior. How can you live in such a way that you stand out among others and call them to repentance? What are some ways you can creatively share the good news of Jesus with them?

IV. The BEHOLD of Jesus: Accomplishment: John 19:26-27

- a. Point of Concern: “when Jesus saw His mother” (26)
- b. Place of Confession: “Behold, your son...Behold, your mother” (26-27)

TAKE AWAY: The hope of your pastor in the delivery of this message is that you would choose to REVERSE THE POINTS: JESUS ACCOMPLISHED what HE ANNOUNCED He would do, which extends the invitation to you today to not only AFFIRM JESUS, but ACCEPT JESUS.

What John the Baptist said Jesus came to do... Jesus did, dying on a cross to pay for our sins, and rising from the dead to show that Jesus' payment was acceptable. Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior? Would anyone like to share the story of how you came to accept Jesus?

Prayer Requests