



OASIS: WORSHIP FULLY
DONE IN SYNC WITH
OUR “ADVENT CONSPIRACY” SERIES
The Passage – Luke 1:26-38

Preface: *Welcome to our LC Bible study in our Christmas sermon series “The Advent Conspiracy.” These LC studies will complement the sermons, often using the same biblical texts, and will help your LC go deeper in personal understanding and application. The italicized portions are meant to resource and help you in leading – not to be distributed to the entire group (it limits conversation). As it is Christmas/New Year’s week, you consider a shorter study and filling the remainder of the time by sharing some holiday life moments.*

Study’s BIG Idea: After being visited by the angel Gabriel, of all Mary’s options and possible feelings, she chooses to surrender to the Lord’s will.

Opening Question/Transition:

What were the highlights of your Christmas/New Year’s?

Every year everyone says they are going to choose to celebrate the holiday easier and simpler – how did you do that this year? Any hopes for next year?

What did you see or appreciate more in the Christmas narrative this year that you may not have seen or appreciated as much before?

Imagine an angel announcing that God wanted *you* to do something that had never been done before.

What would be among your reactions?

Luke 1:26-38 (NIV © 2011)

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,
²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

O – What is Mary’s initial reaction upon hearing the angel Gabriel’s greeting? Describe her tone as the conversation continues.

I – Luke sets the tone by telling of Mary’s context. She is living in the humble town of Nazareth and Gabriel tells Mary that she has “found favor with God.” Describe why this is so bizarre.
(*Kings are not born to nice, poor, country girls who are virgins.*)

A – While most of us do not receive God’s will through angels, share how we do receive the Lord’s will and describe our honest initial reactions, especially towards something involving risk.

O – What does Gabriel tell us about Jesus?

O – Upon hearing Gabriel’s description of Jesus and the news of Mary’s cousin Elizabeth, how does Mary respond?

I – What are the reasons for Elizabeth’s conceiving a child at this point of the story?
(*Though Mary takes Gabriel at his word, her elder and infertile cousin’s pregnancy would have added even more confirmation that God was indeed at work.*)

A – Despite the overwhelming news from Gabriel, Mary surrenders to God’s will. What can we learn from Mary’s humble obedience and how can we apply that in our lives?

Key: O – Observation. I - Interpretation. A – Application

- a. **Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single night.** Take some time and select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your LIFE Community group. Certain questions work better for certain groups. You are encouraged to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best.
- b. Complement OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?).
- c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- d. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- e. Application: Pace the study to conclude with “difference making” application.
- f. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching,” rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.