

# Encountering Christmas

## Mary

Luke 1:26-38

### MAIN IDEAS

- Mary takes God at His word
- Mary's joyful submission
  - In humility
  - When it's not easy
- Other examples of submission

Read Luke 1:26-38. In what ways was this good news for Mary?

In what ways was this news difficult for her? See Matthew 1:18-19.

Read Esther 3:13, 4:8-14 and Daniel 3:1-15. Put yourself in Esther's shoes, and then in Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's shoes. What would your attitude be?

What are Mary's attitudes in Luke 1:38,46-55? What is Esther's attitude in Esther 4:15-16? What is Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's attitude in Daniel 3:16-18?

Why do you think they're able to have these attitudes?

What do we need in order to experience joy, according to Psalm 13:5, Psalm 33:21, and 1 Peter 1:8?

What does it take to submit joyfully in tough situations?

Read Matthew 1:20-25, Esther 5:1-3, Daniel 3:19-30. How did God intervene for Mary, Esther, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

Is submission to God hard for you? What could make it easier?

How has God intervened on your behalf?

What are some blessings God promises to those who follow him? Here's a sampling:

- Deuteronomy 31:8
- Joshua 1:9
- Psalm 9:9-10
- Psalm 32:8
- Psalm 37:4
- Psalm 37:23
- Psalm 50:15
- Psalm 91:3
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Isaiah 26:3
- Isaiah 40:29
- Isaiah 40:31
- Isaiah 54:10
- Isaiah 54:17
- Malachi 3:10
- Matthew 6:31-33
- Matthew 11:28
- Matthew 28:20
- Mark 11:24
- John 3:16
- Romans 8:28
- Romans 10:9
- Philippians 4:6-7
- Philippians 4:19
- James 1:5
- James 4:7
- 1 John 1:9

Meditate on the verses above—one, two, or three per day:

- Thank God for His gracious promises.
- Rest in His promises. When difficult situations arise or uncertainty grips you, encourage yourself with His promises.
- When you finish the list above, search for more or start over.

## GROUP RESPONSE

Is God calling you to submit in a certain area of your life?

Ask your group to encourage you and keep you accountable.

Reach out to them when submission gets hard.

## REPRODUCE

As you meditate on God's promises, look for opportunities to share them with others. When you share, remember that many of God's promises are not universal. Many apply only to His children.

## KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- Esther 4
- Daniel 3:16-18
- Matthew 1:20
- Luke 1:26-38
- Luke 1:46-55
- Luke 2:10-11
- Luke 22:42
- Romans 11:33-34
- Romans 12:2

Additional verses from the study

- Deuteronomy 31:8
- Joshua 1:9
- Psalm 9:9-10
- Psalm 13:5
- Psalm 32:8
- Psalm 33:21
- Psalm 37:4
- Psalm 37:23
- Psalm 50:15
- Psalm 91:3
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Esther 3:13
- Esther 5:1-3
- Daniel 3:1-30
- Isaiah 26:3
- Isaiah 40:29
- Isaiah 40:31
- Isaiah 54:10
- Isaiah 54:17
- Malachi 3:10
- Matthew 1:18-25
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