

you be thinking and feeling as you heard the prophecy of your future son? Mary believed, despite what it would cost her. What costs are you or have you paid to believe in and follow Jesus?

Gabriel offers up Elizabeth's miraculous pregnancy as assurance that God can give miraculous conception to Mary, but Mary's is still different. It is one thing to heal or restore a barren womb for natural conception. It is something entirely different to give supernatural conception. Why is it often easier for us to believe God will do the miraculous in someone's life or situation rather than our own? When have you experienced this tension? "Nothing will be impossible with God." Where do you need to believe that in your own life right now?

3. APPLY THE TRUTH

Who in your life needs to believe and receive Jesus this Christmas? Write down their name and commit to pray for them every day this month. Then look for opportunities to lead them to Jesus as you pray.



BELIEVING IS RECEIVING

December 3, 2023

Luke 1:26-38

I MUST _____ TO RECEIVE GOD'S _____.

I. I must believe to receive God's _____. – v. 26-30

_____ *in my life needs to believe and receive Jesus this Christmas?*

II. I must believe to receive God's _____. – v. 31-33

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SMALL GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. STUDY THE WORD

Read Luke 1:26-38. Luke intentionally parallels this story with the previous one. What similarities and differences is he highlighting between the two stories, and what do those differences teach us about Jesus? What similarities and differences do you see between specifically Mary and Zechariah? Why are these important?

2. ASSESS YOUR LIFE

Based on Mary's example what is necessary and not necessary to receive God's favor (or grace)? Why do you think some teaching elevates Mary above other humans? How does such teaching undermine the Bible and the message of the Gospel? What can you receive from Mary that will truly help you better follow Jesus?

Examine the 5-fold description of Jesus given by Gabriel. How is each descriptor essential to our understanding of Jesus as our Messiah? If you were Mary, what would



Do I believe enough that I am willing to pay the _____ to receive Jesus?

III. I must believe to receive God's _____. – v. 34-38

Am I failing to believe God can do something _____ this Christmas?

Stewardship Report:

Last Week: \$8,573

This Month: \$0

Last Month: \$51,826

Monthly Budget: \$37,673



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