



Groups

Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides! If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions beginning at the bottom of page 2.

SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE for the sermon preached on December 5, 2021 "The Chosen"—Luke 1:26-38



Here at Week 2 in our Advent Series called "LOVED," we want to explore the idea of being chosen for God's will. In today's passage, we will look at the story of the angel telling Mary that she had been chosen to bring Jesus into this world. As familiar as this story is, it is fascinating and also empowering.

We also want to have this conversation without tripping into the weeds of debate around free will versus fore-ordination, election, etc. and instead lean into the idea that God has chosen you and has invited you to participate in the life of discipleship through specific tasks, or a particular calling or a specific role in a season of life. Numerous possibilities can be explored here, but the hope for our discussion is to recognize God's love in our lives and to invite others to discover it for themselves.

Group Discussion Questions

Q – Pastor Bryan opened up the message with the illustration of the hope to not be chosen last on a dodgeball team. Describe a time when you have felt chosen and describe a another when you have not felt chosen.

Q – Invite a member of the group to read Luke 1:26-38

- For sake of exercise, list as many feelings you can imagine Mary must be feeling in this account.
 - *(List could include: Surprise, shock, fear, wonder, questioning, confusion, excitement, validation, inspiration, willingness).*
- What did the angel tell Mary and what did he ask her to do?

- *(The second part of the question is intentionally designed to make us look at the passage again. The angel didn't ask Mary to do anything but instead told her that God had chosen her to accomplish this mission.)*
- What inspires you most about this passage?
 - *(Answers might include that God does not call us to save the world as only God can do that. However, God invites us to participate in the work of redemption as shown in this account.)*

Q – If an angel had appeared to you and given you a similar message, what would your response be recorded as in verse 38?

Q – You may never encounter an angel telling you God's plan for your life but identify the ways that the Lord may be choosing you for a particular task, role, or calling.

Q – Throughout various seasons of your life, how have you wrestled with receiving direction for significant decisions, transitions, and crossroads?

Q – Often we may be chosen for a particular role or opportunity given our skillset or experience or potential and being loved by the asker might be a secondary consideration. What difference does it make to you knowing that God loves you and has chosen you to live out your calling?

How to Use These Study Guides:

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
 - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
 - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team.