



***Sermon-based small groups connect the week to the weekend!***

*Dig deeper into the talk each week, while getting connected, cared for and known. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life and do it with people just like you to support you on your journey.*

**Message Info:** Crank it Up Christmas, 12/18/22 - We inadvertently categorize people and circumstances into “good” or “bad” categories, when it’s not that simple. Life is complicated. But God takes our complex, uncertain spaces, and can use them to bring forth incredible outcomes. He is faithful and present in the midst of our storms; and when we trust Him, we reap unimaginable blessings. *(Passages: Luke 1:26-38)*

**Discussion Questions:** Take your time and dig into these questions.

At some point, we are all confronted with big decisions. Have you ever moved forward with something huge, despite some initial fear, trusting God to work it out? Did you feel or see evidence along the way that God was with you, affirming your direction and reminding you that you are not alone?

Read Luke 1:26-33. What sticks out to you about this passage? Why?

Mary is a little shook and uncertain, so Gabriel reassures her. The angel’s explanation helps Mary understand: the Messiah is coming! Instead of putting her fears in God’s way, she recognizes an opportunity to serve and asks a faithful “how?”

Read Luke 1:34-38. Discuss with your group.

These passages show us that God affirms our direction, reminds us who He is, and even gives us physical examples to put us at ease as we step out in faith. Mary’s story proves that submitting to God is always greater than what we hope for. Think about how you talk to God. Do you push your own agenda, or ultimately trust that whatever God has is better? What might the consequences have been if Mary decided this inconvenienced her too much?

Remember that following God means truly submitting to Him. Look to Him when all you can see is bad, and trust Him to bring the beauty. He will!

**Group Challenge:** Invite a friend to join you this Christmas Eve at one of our Christmas Eve services.