

GROW GROUP QUESTIONS

Announcement: Don't forget that the office is closed Dec 26–Jan 2nd, which means normal ministries during that time will be on pause.

Prayer Prompts For Group:

P–Praise God for His greatness, wisdom, and ability to work through ordinary people

R–Repent Confess areas where you've tried to control outcomes, rewrite God's plans, or resisted His leading.

A–Ask God for the faith to trust Him fully—even without answers. Pray for hearts that are willing to say yes before knowing the cost.

Y–Yield Pray Mary's words together or silently: "I am your servant. May it happen to me as you have said."

Ice Breaker: Cat or dog person—and why?

The Sermon – Read Aloud Luke 1:26–38

Mary says: **"I am the Lord's servant" and "May it happen to me as You have said":**

- What does the word *servant* stir up in you—positively or negatively? Why do you think we resist this word?
- What do her two statements reveal about her understanding of God?
- Mary's availability—not her credentials—made her useful to God. How does this challenge the way our culture values ability, status, and qualifications?
- Do you think praying "May it happen as you have said" is one of the easiest or hardest prayers to pray? Why?

Going Deeper

- Where do we tend to "vote," "weigh in," bargain, or self-advocate instead of obeying, saying to God: "Yes...but..." or "Yes...if..."
- What makes full surrender to God's plan challenging?
- What would change in your life if you adopted Mary's posture of allowing God to fully have his way in your life?

Prayer from the Sermon (courtesy of John Wesley):

I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You want, rank me with whom You want; put me to doing, put me to suffering; Let me be employed for You or laid aside for You, exalted for You or brought low for You; Let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal.