

BIG IDEA

Hope is established, developed, and sustained only on the foundation of faith.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Read Luke 1:26-38. How would you tell this story in your own words? What are some of the key points found in this passage? What can we learn about hope from this story?

Have you ever interacted with someone who has lost all hope? What was that experience like?

Take a closer look at Luke 1:30-34. Compare the promise of the angel to Mary with the promise of God to Israel in **Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6-7**. What is similar and what is different?

What is the difference between *believing* in God and *trusting* God?

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

What are your initial feelings when you think about your future and the future of the world? Why is it difficult to live with hope in God's promises?

Read Luke 1:38. Put yourself in Mary's situation; would your response be similar to hers? What would your honest response be to Gabriel's news?

Consider a time in your life where you felt that you *actually* put your hope in God instead of worldly things. What stands out to you about this time? What lessons can you apply from this season to your current situation?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Consider Luke 1:38. How could you practically follow Mary's example of hope and obedience in your current situation?

Make a list of easy things you could do this week to bring back hope in someone else's life; hold each other accountable to this list when your group meets again.

Do you believe the best is yet to come after reading the story of Mary?

