

12.15.2013

He Is Here & He Is Not SILENT

Scriptures I want to look up again:

Application:

Perfect faith is the faith that moves us to _____
when things seem _____.

All Things Random

Luke 1:26-38



study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

INTRODUCTION

The ingredients in the Christmas story seem kind of random: a decree from Caesar, an engaged virgin, an angelic announcement, three wise men, and no room at the inn—doesn't sound like the narrative we'd write if we were God. Some of the circumstances we may be dealing with this year aren't exactly what we'd write for our own story, either. Have you ever wondered how to respond to the seemingly random curve balls in our lives? Mary teaches us a lot by the way she responds to God's biggest curve ball yet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your most cherished family Christmas tradition and why is it special to you?
2. **Read Luke 1:1–4.** Do you think of the story of Christ's birth as a fairy tale or an "orderly account" based on the testimony of eyewitnesses? Explain.
3. Is it easy or difficult for you to believe that everything in life happens for a purpose and according to God's will? Why?
4. Talk about a time when a season of tragedy or suffering caused you to wonder if life had purpose and meaning.
5. **Read Luke 1:38.** Can you imagine praying a similar prayer? What's stopping you?

MOVING FORWARD

In the face of life's seeming randomness, we can take comfort in the fact that God is active in the world. Not only that, a God who is in control is the only answer that makes sense of the order we see in the midst of the seeming chaos. The Christmas story confirms that he is at work in the midst of darkness.

As Christmas approaches, remind yourself of God's extraordinary love of humankind by reading the story again with fresh eyes: **Luke 1 -2.**

If you think a friend could be helped by this message, or that you'd like to think about our conversation again check it out at: **www.eastridgechurch.org**

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will..."

Ephesians 1:11