



# DIGGING DEEPER

WEEK 2

A Woman's Journey

## Key Scripture [Read aloud as a group]

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. <sup>28</sup> Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. <sup>30</sup> "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" <sup>34</sup> Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." <sup>35</sup> The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her 6th month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing is impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her. **[Luke 1:26-38]**

## Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you most from this weekend's message or the key scripture?
2. How does Mary's response to God impact you considering at the time she was likely around 15 years old, unmarried, and fully aware of the impact having a baby might have on her relationships, her family and her future?
3. Mary was the kind of person who was prepared to gladly obey God. Even before the angel visited her with this news she was aware of God, trusted him, and was ready to respond and obey whatever he asked of her. How ready are you today to obey God if he asks something of you?
4. As a group look up and have someone read Matthew 26:36-39. What does Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, regarding his crucifixion, reveal to you about how he responded to God? How can Jesus' prayer in Matthew 26:39 become your prayer today?
5. This weekend we learned there are really 4 Types of Responses to God on this journey:

Disobedience - I do not hear or generally will not obey God.

Christian-"ish" - I sometimes, or sort of obey God.

Obedience - Most of the time, I am willing to obey God and do but with some hesitance.

Eager Obedience - I am willing to obey God gladly, and prepared to do so.

Which of these most characterizes how you respond to God in your life and why?

How could you move closer toward becoming a person of "eager obedience" to God? What is one thing you can do to become the kind of person, like Jesus and Mary, who is ready to respond gladly to God?