



# CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF...

## MARY

David McQueen // December 18, 2011

### MESSAGE RECAP

**God loves to use unqualified people who walk in faith and submission (Luke 1:26-38).** Despite many traditions concerning Mary (the mother of Jesus), the Bible reveals her to be an unlikely young woman of deep trust in God. After being visited by the angel Gabriel, who told her that she would miraculously conceive the Messiah, Mary's response is astonishing: *I am the Lord's servant...may it be to me as you have said.* She knew that God would enable her and give her the strength to persevere through what He was calling her to do. God is looking for the same heart of faith and submission in his followers today, regardless of their qualifications or experience.

### GETTING STARTED

1. What did you grow up learning about Mary, the mother of Jesus? Are you more inclined to downplay or elevate Mary when it comes to your faith in Jesus?

### GOING DEEPER

1. Beyond what is revealed in scripture, what views or traditions concerning Mary have some churches promoted? What are the dangers of embracing these views or traditions?
2. What does scripture reveal about the person and character of Mary? Why is this significant for believers today?
3. In his message, Pastor David challenges the thought that *God will never give us more than we can handle.* Why is this idea unbiblical, and what is true about what God may call us to?

### MAKING IT PERSONAL

1. Do you truly believe God can use you to accomplish things of eternal significance, even if you are unqualified? How willing are you to try something that seems overwhelming or impossible?
2. What is God calling you to do right now that is beyond your ability or beyond what you can handle? What does He want to accomplish in you through the experience?

### MINISTRY TIME

Many believers are missing incredible blessings from the Lord because they feel *disqualified* or *unqualified* in being used by Him. **Take time to pray over and to encourage those who carry any sense of unworthiness. Take time also to prophetically speak over one another what you think the Lord may be calling each other into when it comes to the Kingdom of God.** What spiritual gifts and/or abilities do you need to call out in one another? What creative ways or in what new environments does the Lord want to use those gifts and/or abilities?

### TAKING ACTION

As the new year approaches, take time this week to purposefully ask the Lord whether there is something new He wants you to engage in the coming months, whether at home, at church, in your workplace, or somewhere else He highlights. Is He calling you to new or different depths of ministry or serving? Where does He want to stretch or challenge you?

## JUST FOR LEADERS

### VISION CASTING:

Encourage your Life Group this holiday season to **think transformation** not just inwardly in your group but also outwardly to a person or family in need. How can your group be an instrument of transformation by serving and blessing the life of someone outside your group? Would someone in your Life Group be willing to organize and facilitate a combined project of blessing?

### CRITICAL DATES & INFORMATION:

- NO DNA Infusion during the month of December (will resume in January)
- Please deliver **Christmas Unleashed** gifts to your adopted family by Sunday, December 18

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