

TLC Home Group Expectations

- **Please start and end on time.** If you'd like to provide an atmosphere of fellowship, it's better that you provide this at the end to allow people who have to leave the opportunity to do so.
 - **Allow silence.** Allow room for others to contemplate and even feel uncomfortable when asking someone to read, within group prayer, or when throwing out a question. Please don't rush in just to fill the space. Allow God to do what only He can.
 - **When sharing, make it about you and what God is revealing about you and or Him.** Please allow room for others to share (don't dominate).
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The Annunciation of Jesus Birth

Do you prefer an artificial or real Christmas tree?

What's your favorite Christmas movie?

What's your favorite Christmas tradition?

What's your earliest Christmas memory?

As we explore the gospel of Luke and the responses of those God is using within the coming of Jesus, read Luke 1:5-25 and Luke 1: 26-38 and explore the **similarities and differences** between:

- Gabriel's greeting to Zechariah and Mary
- Gabriel's message to Zechariah and Mary
- The response of Zechariah and Mary

Zechariah's response is typically described as one of **unbelief** and/or **doubt**.

- Does his response surprise you because he was a priest and one as described by God as upright and observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly?
- Is it difficult for you to admit and talk about doubt?

- Where are your places of doubt? Examples of common doubt arise from past experience, our past, shame, lack of experience, difficult experience, age, season of life and identity.
- Identify those in God's word that battled with doubt.

Mary's response is typically described as one of **wonder** and **faith**.

- Does her response surprise you because of her age and circumstances?
- Define faith.
- Talk about your experience with taking a step and/or steps of faith.
 - If you don't think you've done so, ask another person close to you how they've seen you take a step or steps of faith. If you're reading this question, you've taken a step of faith by entering a road of deeper relationship with God and others through a Home Group.

What would you like to bring before God in praise, gratitude, and need?