

## The Christmas Experience Leader Guide

### Session 2: Favored One

#### Leader's Devotional:

Jesus is the best small group leader ever, and he is our model for how to lead a life-changing group. Where did he learn to lead with both authority and humility? While leadership was surely part of his nature, as he grew up Jesus learned from others how to lead. Perhaps the person from whom he learned the most was his mother. In his gospel, Luke tells us that Jesus was obedient to his parents as he grew up, Mary treasured all these things, and “Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Luke 2:51-52).

What can you learn from Mary about leading your group?

She was a humble servant. It takes great humility to be a great leader. Jesus learned humility from his mom. Years later he taught his followers, “Among you, those who are the greatest should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant” (Luke 22:26). Jesus saw that humble, servant’s attitude in his mother’s life as he grew up.

She delighted herself in her relationship with God. Mary said, “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior (Luke 1:46-47). This is where godly leadership starts. Mary exemplified for her son what a relationship with God looked like. Jesus often withdrew to solitary places to spend time with his father. So should we!

# Journey CHURCH

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She knew who and whose she was. Mary said with humble confidence, “I am the Lord’s servant.” Godly leaders know their identity in Christ, so they don’t have to try to be something they’re not; they can be authentic.

She was called and responded in obedience to her calling. “May it be to me as you have said,” Mary stated (Luke 1:38). Leadership is a calling by God, not just a recruiting by a church minister or volunteer. Responding to God’s call rather than initiating ministry out of your own aspirations makes all the difference!

What can you learn about godly leadership from Jesus’ mom?

## **Purpose of this Week:**

To consider how, like Mary, we can find favor with God and hear and obey his will for our lives.

## **Discussion:**

1. What do you think about how Mary was portrayed? How would you describe her demeanor or attitude? Read Luke 1:26-38.
2. The video presentation began with this question, “Why Mary?” Out of all the women in the world at the time, why do you think God chose Mary to bring his son into the world?

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3. Kyle recognized that it was Mary's humble spirit that drew the favor of God. "God often chooses to work through a humble person," he said. "Humility opens the door to God's favor." How does humility "open the door" to God's favor and calling?
4. To follow the example of Mary in living as a humble servant who received an incredible gift, what thoughts, attitudes, or behaviors need to change in you?
5. What do you think about Elizabeth's greeting when Mary arrived?
6. Look at Mary's song, also called "the Magnificent," in Luke 46-55.
7. What else do you learn about Mary's priorities and attitudes in this song?
8. What do you learn from Mary about what God may have in store for those who humbly follow God's will for their lives and serve him wholeheartedly?