

HOPE

A Good Place to Find Life

Small Group Discussion Guide — June 7, 2026

- Series: I Declare
 - Sermon: May It Be
 - Scripture: Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)
-

CONNECT

Has anyone ever told you something that was going to happen to you that you found difficult to believe? If so, how did you respond to it? Please share an example.

FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

Last week we read about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the Book of Daniel, in particular chapter 3, verses 16-18. What impressed you about their faith and commitment to the God that they served? How should this impression affect your life? What can you do to move your own faith and commitment to the Lord to a deeper level?

Did you write “I Declare” foundational statements last week on the cards provided during the sermon? If so, share one with your group and explain why it is important to you.

ENGAGE

Imagine the Lord saying something unbelievable and astonishing to you “out of the blue.” What would your response be in that moment? Now think of your answer. Was your response one of faith and obedience (a la Mary) or one of doubt and questioning (a la Zechariah)? What could help you to have more “faith responses” to the things God is urging you to do or to believe?

Re-read Luke 1:38. David mentioned that Mary’s response to the angel Gabriel can be highlighted with one phrase, “I am the Lord’s, servant. May it be.” The Lord was a cornerstone of Mary’s identity. So whose are you? How do you respond to the question of your identity? Be honest. People, some good and some perhaps bad, and circumstances from the past, some positive and some negative, have undoubtedly shaped you to become who you are. Name some of these people and experiences. Lift them up to God in prayer of praise or prayer for healing.

APPLY

Our “I Declare” sermon series has focused on - “Yet” with Habbakuk losing all his crops, “But Now” with Job in the midst of his suffering, “If Not” with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego at a time when their very lives were threatened, and this week, “May It Be” with Mary, a person of great faith whose identity was in the Lord. Share a “Yet,” “But Now,” “If Not,” or, “May it Be” moment in your spiritual journey. Or, think of a situation in your present life that you need to address with a “Yet,” “But Now,” “If Not,” or “May it Be.” What is it? Share more about it to the extent that you are comfortable.

PRAYER

Dear God, may our lives be one of faith and commitment to you, lives as simple and clear in the midst of challenges as was the life of Mary, the Lord’s mother. May we have You, O Lord, at the center of our lives, an unshakable center, a center that always reminds us that You are love, You are sovereign, You know all things. May we seek you with our whole heart, soul, mind, body, and spirit today and forevermore.

GOING DEEPER

Mary was a Spirit-led person. Her allegiance was to the Lord. What kind of “led” person are you? What can “lead” you if you are not careful - money? ambition?, popularity?, FOMO (fear of missing out)?, something else?

Habbukuk 1:5 states, “Look, wonder and be amazed for I am going to do a work in your day that you would not believe even if you were told.” Is there something big you sense God calling you to? If so, what is it? Are you paying attention to it? How can you better pursue it? Seriously pray about it. Share it with a close friend so you can consider it even more earnestly.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:18; Romans 12:1

QUOTES

For a spiritual life is simply a life in which all that we do comes from the centre, where we are anchored in God: a life soaked through and through by a sense of His reality and claim, and self-given to the great movement of His will - Evelyn Underhill