

“Fear Not—Receiving God’s Peace”

Luke 1:26–38

Opening Question

1. When you hear the words “*Do not be afraid*,” what situations or emotions come to mind? Where do you most long for God’s peace right now?
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Read Luke 1:26–38

Observation Questions (What does the text say?)

2. What details in the passage emphasize Mary’s ordinary background? How does this highlight the surprising nature of God’s choice?
 3. What is Mary’s initial reaction to Gabriel’s greeting? What words or phrases in verses 28–29 describe her emotional state?
 4. What titles and descriptions does Gabriel give for Jesus (vv. 31–33)? How might these grand promises contribute both to fear and to peace?
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Interpretation Questions (What does the text mean?)

5. Why do you think Gabriel begins with “Do not be afraid” before delivering God’s message? What does this reveal about how God approaches human fear?
6. How does Mary move from **disturbance** (v. 29) to **surrender** (“Let it be to me...” in v. 38)? What does this journey teach us about trusting God’s purposes?
7. In verse 30 Gabriel says, “You have found favor with God.” How does God’s favor differ from human ideas of “favor,” blessing, or success?
8. Mary asks, “How will this be?” (v. 34). What’s the difference between Mary’s question here and Zechariah’s question earlier in Luke 1? What can we learn about faith-filled questioning?

Peace & “Fear Not” Focus

9. Where do you see signs of **God’s peace** breaking into Mary’s fear in this story? What words, promises, or assurances make the difference?
10. The angel tells Mary what **God will do**, not what Mary must do. How does shifting focus from *our ability* to *God’s faithfulness* bring peace today?
11. Mary receives peace *before* her circumstances change. What does this teach us about the nature of biblical peace (shalom)?
12. How might Mary’s final response—“Let it be to me according to your word”—become a prayer for us when facing uncertainty, fear, or overwhelming tasks?

Application Questions (Living it out)

13. Where is God inviting you to trust Him in an area that currently causes fear or anxiety?
14. What promises of God bring you the most peace? How can these shape your prayers this week?
15. How can your group help one another cultivate a deeper posture of peace during stressful seasons (e.g., Advent, work, family, finances)?
16. Is there a practical act of trust or obedience you feel prompted to take, similar to Mary’s humble “yes”? What would it look like to step into it with courage and peace?

Closing Reflection

17. Spend a moment quietly praying:
“Lord, help me receive Your peace and trust Your word—just as Mary did.”