

# Fellowship Fayetteville Discussion Guide

ADVENT | An Angel Visits

November 28, 2021

Luke 1:26-38

In the book of Daniel, Gabriel shows up for his only appearance in the Old Testament. His announcement in **Daniel 9** concerns the restoration of Israel's Kingdom under the leadership of the Anointed One (or Messiah). Yet for centuries, this restoration had remained nothing but a figment of Israel's imagination. Until, Gabriel once again steps onto the biblical stage with an announcement about a King. What would it feel like to wait on God to fulfill His promises? Have you ever had an experience where the promises of God seemed to be too slow to arrive? How did you feel? What did you do?

Tim Keller states, "You cannot judge God by your calendar. God may appear to be slow, but he never forgets his promises. He may seem to be working very slowly or even to be forgetting his promises, but when his promises come true (and they will come true), they always burst the banks of what you imagined." Have you found this true in your life?

Mary is "deeply troubled" by the angel's words. And with logic and reasoning she wrestles with the angel's message. Yet, ultimately she trusts God's plan. When have you had to wrestle with the Lord in your life? What doubts still persist for you? (Do you believe that it's actually okay to have those? Mary wasn't rebuked for her fears and doubts.)

Ultimately, Mary signs-on to God's plan, knowing it will likely destine her to a life of poverty (as an unwed single mother), ostracism, and shame. She knows that her child will always be considered illegitimate and she will be an outcast for the rest of her life. Yet she says, "I am the Lord's servant," "May your word to me be fulfilled." What hard things does Jesus ask of you (us) in trusting and obeying Him? What is difficult for you to surrender to God right now?

## Salvation Army Bell Ringing

One hour at a kettle could shelter a family for a night or provide 30 meals to those who are experiencing food insecurity. The money raised goes right back into our local community—to not only support their Christmas services, but to also aid our continual community efforts.

Sign up [here](#) to be a Bell Ringer for an hour on Dec 4, 11, and 18. Spots are limited.

## PRAY

Pray for global workers, Kevin and Cynthia, as they make plans with ISCA to do the international Christmas festival.

## Connect DAILY

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Isaiah 7:14</b> <i>Pay Close Attention to "The Sign"</i>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:2</b> <i>A New Day is Dawning</i>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:6-7</b> <i>Who is Jesus?</i>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>Micah 5:2-4</b> <i>Half-Hearted Hope</i>
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Matthew 1:1-17</b> <i>Anticipation</i>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>Matthew 1:18-21</b> <i>A God-given Dream</i>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>Matthew 1:22-25</b> <i>Providence and Responsibility: A Christmas Story</i>

