



An Invitation to Listen to God Do “Yes”. Be “Yes”!

To prepare for the next Small Faith Sharing Community you are invited to engage in the following process before you meet each week:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear God’s Word.
- Choose a scripture passage, read it and sit quietly with the Word.
- What moves you or attracts you in this reading?
- Does anything cause resistance in you? Do you know why?
- Take a few minutes to respond in writing to the readings.

Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020

Reading 1: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 89: 2-5, 27-29

Reading 2: Romans 16: 25-27

Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

Questions

► *For personal reflection prior to meeting as a group:*

1. The prophecy by Nathan to King David in the first reading was a basis for the Jewish expectation of a messiah. Is this messiah only for kings and “important” people? How has this messiah blessed you? What have you done recently to get to know Him better?
2. In the second reading, what does the phrase “bring about the obedience of faith” mean to your life?

► *For group discussion:*

3. What are some ways you can say “yes” to Jesus in the next few weeks?
4. How has God’s grace helped you in difficult times, and in life affirming ways?
5. Are you able to pray for Mary’s intercession with Jesus? Have you recently asked her to help bring your prayers for yourself, your family and/or for friends to Jesus? What about for your “enemies”, those who have hurt you or whom you don’t like? (Could Jesus love even them? Can you?)

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Gospel

LK 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God
to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,
of the house of David,
and the virgin’s name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said,
“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”

But she was greatly troubled at what was said
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her,
“Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

But Mary said to the angel,
“How can this be,
since I have no relations with a man?”

And the angel said to her in reply,
“The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

Therefore the child to be born

will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, Elizabeth, your relative,

has also conceived a son in her old age,

and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;

for nothing will be impossible for God.”

Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word.”

Then the angel departed from her.