

Christmas: IT'S COMPLICATED

Small Group Questions: Complicated Faith

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Read

Luke 1:26-38, Hebrews 11: 1 and 6, James 1:2-4 and 2:14-17

Reflect

In Luke 1:26-38, Mary receives a visit from the angel, Gabriel and is told that she will conceive the Son of God. To this, Mary replies, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." What would it be like to have that kind of faith? The Christmas story may have become so familiar after hearing it time after time that we gloss over incredible parts of one of the foundational stories of our faith. We know how the story ends. But, put yourself in Mary's shoes...(or sandals). Would you react with, "Let it be to me according to your word"? Her reply is a statement of incredible faith.

Do you ever wish you had more faith?

Pastor Josh Walters gave us four "Let It Be" facts that can help us grow and cultivate our faith:

1. Faith is established by hearing.
 - a. It's easy to hear, and yet not really listen. In what ways have you taken the Christmas story for granted?
 - b. What parts of the Christmas story are the hardest to believe and understand except through the eyes of faith?
 - c. What barriers would keep you from saying, "Let it be."?
2. Faith is proven by action.
 - a. What is the difference between professing and possessing faith?
 - b. In what ways has faith caused you to live your life differently than if you were an unbeliever?
 - c. If you had more faith, what do you think it would help you do? Take the next step? Share your faith with someone? Get through a rough time?
3. Faith is tested by trials.
 - a. Think of someone who has great faith. How have they shown the "Let it be" attitude?
 - b. Do you have faith for others, but not for yourself? Why?
 - c. How open are you to letting God take you NOT to an old place, but a new one?
4. Faith is strengthened by stories.
 - a. What words would you use to describe your life right now?
 - b. Stories strengthen other people. Have you ever shared your testimony? How willing are you to open up and share the hardest parts of your life?
 - c. What have you learned that others would benefit from knowing?

What would it take for you to be certain that God was with you today? How will you grow and cultivate your faith this Christmas season?

Respond

- What do you feel like God is asking you to do in response to the weekend message? What is your next step?
- How can your Small Group support you and hold you accountable in this?