

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 4, 2016

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. If you were God the Father, what type of girl or woman would you want to choose to be the mother of your only begotten Son?

I would want to choose a young woman I had begun to prepare before she was born. One with parents who would

train her in the way she should live as a devout believer in God and follower of the Ten Commandments in a believing and loving family. One who would mature in every way, and one who showed mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional maturity even before the angel visited her. One who would be able to trust in God and find her strength and faith in God the Father through dark days. One who would love her Son and her family and raise her Son to grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and others. One who served others outside of her home and showed hospitality to others.

2. What does the angel say to Mary so she will not be afraid?

He reassures her that she has found favor with God, which would affirm for her at least that she had been living the right way and God did not have any reason to judge or punish her for her behavior. He also affirmed that God would be with her.

3. What does the angel say about Mary's Son that makes Him special and what are some of the ways Jesus is different from John the Baptist?

He would be called the Son of the Most High God, and He would be conceived without a human father when the Holy Spirit overshadowed her. John was a prophet of the Most High God and John was conceived naturally with supernatural help from God.

4. How is Mary's reply to the angel a good example for all who claim to be Christians?

She said that she was present and ready to serve God right then whatever God wanted. She humbly called herself a servant of God. She said that she wanted everything in her life to be according to the word of God. Her words probably expressed the state of life in which she lived each day, so her reply came very naturally to her.

5. How would many churches be different today if every church member had the attitude of Mary each day?

Every church member would be present before the Lord God and ready to serve God and others at the moment God called them. Every church member would study the Bible and try to live like Jesus wants all Christians to live. Every church member would pray to God and pray for each other and try to discover and also do the will of God in all decisions that the church had to make. Every church member would seek to serve God, the church, and others inside and outside the church according to the will of God in the Spirit of God. Everyone would try to serve as a good model of Jesus Christ, as a good Christian, in every circumstance. Every church member would trust completely in God and God's Word as trustworthy and true.

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