

THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS:

for Ordinary People
December 7, 2025

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Summary.

God chose an unqualified couple, met them in less-than-ideal circumstances, and used an ordinary moment to change eternity. God still works through ordinary people who make themselves available to Him.

Key Scripture Summaries.

Luke 1:26-38 | God chooses Mary, an ordinary young woman from Nazareth, and she responds with simple availability: *"I am the Lord's servant."*

Matthew 1:18-25 | Joseph obeys God's direction in a dream and takes Mary as his wife, showing trust in the middle of confusion.

Luke 2:1-7, 22-24 | A Roman census sends Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, where Jesus is born in humble conditions. His parents offer the sacrifice of the poor.

Micah 5:2 | God promises the Messiah will come from small, overlooked Bethlehem.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 | God chooses the lowly and unimpressive, and all boasting belongs to Him.

John 1:14; Mark 6:3; Isaiah 53:2 | Jesus comes in ordinary form, fully God yet easily dismissed, revealing God's glory through humility.

Start Talking.

1. When you hear the phrase "ordinary," what kind of person comes to mind? Is "ordinary" a good thing or a negative thing? Why?
2. When growing up, did you ever assume the biggest gift under the tree was the best one? How has that mindset of "bigger must be better" shown up in your adult life?

Start Thinking.

- What do you notice about who Mary is and how she responds to God's call? How does her *"I am the Lord's servant"* push against our excuses about feeling unqualified?
- What about Mary and Joseph's situation looks like bad timing or a "bad place"? What does this show us about how God works in difficult or messy seasons?

- According to Paul, why does God choose people who seem weak or unimpressive? How does this confront our culture's focus on status, platform, and performance?
- Why do you think God allowed Jesus to look and live so "normal" for most of His life? What does that say about the people God came to save and work through?

Start Sharing.

1. Where do you feel most "unqualified" right now? Home, work, faith, or serving? How does the Christmas story speak to that?
2. Share a time when you weren't in a "good place," yet God was clearly at work. What did you learn about Him?
3. Where does life feel "very normal" for you? How might God work through those ordinary spaces?
4. If you prayed Mary's prayer, *"I am the Lord's servant,"* what might change this week in your choices or comfort zone?
5. How has God placed you in the life of your ONE as an ordinary person with an extraordinary message?

Start Praying.

God, thank You for seeing and using ordinary people. Help us offer You our availability instead of excuses. Give us Mary's "yes" and Joseph's obedience. Use our everyday lives to point people to Jesus this Christmas. Amen.

Start Doing.

- Say "yes" to Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- Read Luke 1-2 slowly and listen to what God wants to teach you.
- Invite your ONE to Christmas Eve. 12/24 at 1 PM, 2:30 PM, and 4 PM!
- Do one "ordinary" act of intentional generosity. Examples: tip big with an encouraging note, shovel snow, bring a coffee to a first-responder or healthcare worker, invite someone who might be alone to lunch/dinner. Involve your family, roommates, or group members.