

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

CONNECT

If you haven't already, discuss group goals, values, and plans together by completing the orange Growth Group Guidelines doc. Specifically share how you each hope to grow as individuals and a group (bottom of page 1).

LEARN & APPLY

Growing as disciples of Jesus includes learning the contents of his story. Take turns reading Luke 1:26-56 and discuss the following questions:

- In Luke 1:36-37, an angel uses Elizabeth's experience to reassure and strengthen Mary's faith. Do you think God's work in you is a gift or example to anyone else? Sometimes this is hardest to see in ourselves, and it might be easier to ask: what do you see in each other's faith?
- Look back at Mary's response in Luke 1:38. What is God waiting for you to say yes to?
- Many cultures have privileged men's stories over women's. We will see this year that Luke tells important stories about the women in Jesus' life, beginning with Elizabeth and Mary. Who have been important mothers in the faith for you? What have you learned from them?
- Luke emphasizes that the coming of Jesus is a source of great joy - especially in the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth.
 - Why is Jesus good news of great joy for people?
 - What causes people to miss the joy?
- In the message this week, we learned about being a community under the reign of King Jesus. Jesus makes us family! What's an actionable step you can take as a Growth Group to strengthen your sense and practice of community?

PRAY

Start with a time of silence to remember the ways God has been merciful to you and the ways God wants us to take a step with him. Close in prayer by reading aloud Mary's joyful song in Luke 1:46-55.

This resource and more always available at gracepeople.church.