

**LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS**  
**For Sunday, December 18, 2011's Sermon**  
**Foundational Scripture:**

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-38 <http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=190884649>

**Sermon Series:** "Expecting"

**Sermon Title:** "Favored One"

**Question:** Is God on my side?

**Synopsis:** God's unexpected favor can sometimes feel like a burden. But we must be willing to shoulder the burden.

**Featured Scripture Reflection:** <sup>38</sup>Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said." And the angel left her. – **Luke 1:38 (CEV)**

**Opening Icebreaker:** Share about an assignment that seemed to be a blessing but ended up being more difficult or challenging than you thought it would be (i.e. – a new piece of technology, a job promotion, a new addition to the family, a particular purchase, a house etc.).

**Additional Question:** In what ways is it challenging to be a Christian?

**Scripture Questions**

**What is the scripture saying?**

- Read **Luke 1:26-38**. <http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=190884649> What stands out to you about this story? What questions does it raise? What does it tell you about Mary? What does it tell you about God?
- Read **Luke 1:39-56**. <http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=190884708> What words or phrases stand out to you when you read this passage? How does this passage add to your understanding of Mary?
- Read **Matthew 1:18-25**. <http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=190884731> How does this passage compliment what was read in the previous passages? What does this say about Joseph?

**How is God speaking through Scripture?**

- What is the "Good News" in these passages of Scripture?
- After discussing and pondering these passages, how do these passages affect me? (i.e. - How are these passages speaking to me?)

**God's word**

- What is God's invitation to you?

**A prayer**

God, give us the strength to be your servants, submitting to your plan for our lives. Amen.