



Guest Speaker: Rob Morgan

Due to having a guest speaker, *there is not an outline this week.*
Please use the space below for your personal notes.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

The questions below are about the life and character of Jesus's mother, Mary. Specifically, her submission, surprise, and suffering in motherhood. To prepare ahead, you can read through Luke chapter 1 – there's more to that chapter than Mary, but it will give you context and put you in the right frame of mind.

Getting Started

These are just a few “remember mom” questions to get you started this week. It's possible that there may be people in your group who didn't have a loving and giving mother. If that's the case, have them answer these questions for a maternal figure in their lives.

1. When you think about your mother, what quality do you most admire about her? Which of her qualities do you most want to emulate?

2. What were some of the ways your mother revealed her love and devotion for you and the rest of your family?

Going Deeper

1. The practice of submission was a central part of the character of Mary. What do you think it means to submit to someone? Can you think of a few real-life examples of submission today? To whom, or what, do we submit on a regular basis? Ultimately, it means going with someone else's plan instead of your own. If your group members have trouble, start with clear authority figures (teachers, bosses, governors) – but who *else*? Read Ephesians 5:21-25, especially verse 21. Also, consider the idea of submitting to Christ, to the church, and to those with more wisdom/experience than you.

2. Mary practiced submission to God in significant ways. What are some of the things in your life that are difficult to place under God's control? What would it mean for you to put those things in His hands? **Help your group discuss what this looks like in day-to-day life – what makes submission *hardest* in a given situation, what benefits there are, what emotions they'd experience, and the life-change that it could bring. If they need prompts, here are a few: finances, future plans, your kid's lives, relationships, life-changing events, your happiness...**

3. Luke wrote of Mary that she is the "highly favored one" and that she is "blessed among women." Take some time as a group to read Luke 1:26-56 and then list the qualities of Mary. **In other words, how would you describe Mary's character?**

4. Read Romans 8:5-9 and talk about two sides of submission. Why is it hard, at times, for us to be submitted to God? What makes it possible to live a life of submission to Him? **We are submitted to whatever we focus our attention on – if we focus on our flesh, it runs our lives. But when we are searching to see the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, it's easier to live submitted to God. Here are some passages that remind us how important our focus is: Colossians 3:1-3; Galatians 5:19-25; Philippians 4:8; Hebrews 12:2.**

5. Mary submitted to God's plans for her by saying, "Let it be," even when there was a huge cost for her submission. What might it cost you to live in submission to God? **If there is hesitation or uncertainty, help your group think in terms of particular circumstances or areas of life: at work, with their family, with their plans, at church, or maybe at school. Think of the specific costs that might be involved in each if you put God first rather than yourself or the person/situation you're dealing with.**

