

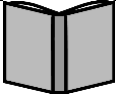



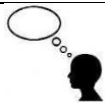







Small Group/ Reflection Notes

05.12.21		Mary Listens	
 Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advent has begun! What are you looking forward to about Christmas this year? How will it be different for you from last year? 		
 Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What similarities can you think of between Gideon and Mary? What do they show us about how God chooses people for special missions? 		
 Read	Luke 1:26-38	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Talks
 Explore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary's visit from Gabriel was an extraordinary way for God to speak; how have you heard from God? How can we be sure we don't miss hearing from Him in the midst of life's background noise? How can we model listening to God to younger members of our church? How can we encourage them to listen and form good habits? How is our relationship with God like our friendships and relationships with other people? In what ways is it distinct? What might our motives be about wanting to hear from God? What could make it difficult for us to hear from Him, or for Him to speak to us clearly? Mary didn't just listen to what Gabriel said; she responded too. Her part may seem passive and accepting - in what ways did she show obedience? What can we learn from Mary's story? 		
 Go further	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Another Mary, Martha's and Lazarus' sister, was also someone who made listening a priority. Remind yourself of her story in Luke 10:38-42. How is this relevant to us today? How is our experience of listening to what God says similar and different? How will you make listening to God a priority for your life this week? 		
 Reflect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? What is God putting on <i>your</i> heart? 		
 Do	<p>Make time to listen.</p> <p>Start your space by asking God to speak to you. You could either read through a passage of scripture or psalm or listen to a worship song/hymn. You may wish to do this a few times.</p>		

	<p>Wait. Be still.</p> <p>Make a note of any images or words that come to you. Share with someone.</p>
 Pray	<p>Lord God, thank you that you still choose to speak to us, that you seek out relationship with us. Forgive me for not always listening, for not always making the time to seek your voice. Please speak and teach me to hear. Amen.</p>
 My questions:	

*If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
 Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk*