



Girl Interrupted: The Bold, Gutsy Life of Mary

Luke 1:26-56

OPEN

Do you remember a time when you took a big risk in trusting God in a particular situation?

- What was the context and risk before you?
- How did you respond?

DISCUSS

Read the story of Mary in Luke 1:26-56.

- What do you know of the Jewish culture that makes an unplanned pregnancy, outside of marriage, such a problematic interruption?
- Think of the characters in this story (from God, Mary, Joseph, the "neighborhood"...even the Law). What impresses you in this story?
- What do you think of Mary's response to all of this?

Multiple times, Mary is told she is *avored* (a word rooted in grace). Have you, or do you, feel favored by God? Why or why not?

When God interrupts our lives, most often we need space (quiet reflection and process time with others) to discern how we are to respond to the interruption.

- Have you found this to be true of you?
- Do you feel you have the space and margin to engage God in your current season of life?



Is God interrupting your life right now (could be a small way or something BIG)? (If not, think a recent time when God was interrupting you.)

- What risks are before you in this interruption?
- How do you find yourself engaging and/or resisting this interruption?
- How are you responding to this interruption?

If Time Allows...

Consider Mary's song (the Magnificat) in Luke 1:46-55.

- What stands out to you in this song?
- Mary was counted as part of the *anawim* (the very poor and oppressed). When you read the word *poor* in her song, understanding it as truly poor socio-economically, does it change the meaning of the song for you?
- Mary's song can be categorized with revolutionary words. Do you see revolution in her song? Who is the revolution against? Who is it for?
- What do you find in common with Zechariah's Song (Luke 1:68-79)? Do you see a theme connecting to Jesus and the people's expectations?
- From what you now know of Mary...what do you think of this song?

YOUR NEXT STEP...

- Ponder Mary (her story, her interruption, her response and words) this week.
- How do you find yourself resonating with Mary?
- What word does God have for you through what you have heard and shared from the weekend message and your group discussion?