

# Family Devotional

From December 11, 2016

**Play:** Play the game "Would You Rather" with the group. Ask each other the question, "Would you rather \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_". Typically they are either both things the person would each joy, or both things the person would not want to do. They can be serious or silly questions. For example: "Would you rather go bungee jumping or skydiving?" You might be tempted to say neither or both, but in the spirit of the game you have to choose one. Play for as long as your group is enjoying the game then follow with this transition: Let's read a Bible story about a person who had a tough choice to make.

**Read:** Luke 1:26-38

**Reflect:** If an angel appeared to you right now, how do you think you would react? What would you be thinking and feeling?

What did the angel say to Mary to let her know she didn't need to be afraid?

What news did the angel give her?

How do you think Mary felt about this news?

The news the angel brought was very exciting, but a little overwhelming too! God was telling her He had chosen her for a special purpose because He recognized her faithfulness. However, Mary thought she knew where her life was headed, but now this being appears and tells her she's going to have a baby and not just any baby, but the son of God!

How did Mary respond to the angel?

Do you think Mary knew everything she was agreeing to?

**Read:** Hebrews 11:1

Mary chose stepping out in faith over living in fear. She did not agree to this great mission God had chosen her for because she knew what all it would entail; Mary agreed because she knew the One she was following.

**Remember:** Work together as a family to memorize/meditate Psalm 56:3-4a this week.

*"When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise,  
in God I trust; I will not be afraid."*

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

**Respond:**

"Dear God, Thank you for giving us people like Mary who are a great example and encouragement to us. Help us to trust you completely and walk not in fear, but in FAITH.....Amen!"