OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Can you relate to Mary in this story? What honest questions do you have for God?

b) Do you struggle at all to believe in the incarnation of Jesus? The virgin birth? What makes these difficult for you to believe? What helps you to believe in them?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Nothing is impossible with God. Do you believe this? What impossible things have you seen God do? What impossible thing are you actively asking God to do?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) In what ways are we all like Mary? Think about grace, faith, surrender, obedience.

b) The virgin birth makes possible both Jesus' humanity and his divinity. Why do we need Jesus to be both human and divine in order for him to be our savior?

APPLICATION

a) Mary surrendered her life to God's plan – "Let it be done to me according to your word." What area of your life do you struggle to surrender? How does knowing that, like Mary, you have received God's grace help you to surrender more fully to Christ?

PRAYER

- Acknowledge God's power to do the impossible.
- Confess areas of your life that you have failed to surrender to Christ.
- Thank Jesus for taking on flesh and entering into our human situation.
- Ask God to help you to trust him even when you don't understand everything.