



3. Be ready to say 'YES' Luke 1:26-38



Key Points: We prepare for God to move by being ready to say YES

To say YES to God we need to:

- Key point 1. **Believe God is for us (Lk 1:28 & 30)**
 - Gabriel's message to Mary was that she was favoured and God was with her. This underpinned the message that God wanted to use her for an amazing purpose. Knowing God is for us allows us to say YES to Him even when we don't understand how things will pan out for good.
- Key point 2. **Trust God can do the impossible (Lk 35-37)**
 - Gabriel is excited to tell Mary about the miracle of Elizabeth becoming pregnant in her old age. He does this to raise Mary's faith and demonstrate that 'nothing will be impossible with God' (v37 NRSV). We can say YES to God because even though the ask can be hard and even lead us through suffering, we trust that He can work miracles through us.
- Key point 3. **Expect God to use anyone (Lk 1:29 & 38)**
 - Mary was 'confused and disturbed' at the Angel's message. Why would God want to use her? She didn't have any religious or cultural status. Yet Luke wants to show that it is Mary's obedience (her big YES to God) that was of most importance.

Questions:

Conversation Starter

1. Have you recently found yourself being asked to say YES to something you did not want to do? How did you respond?

Start thinking

2. Consider the times in your life where you said YES to God (maybe when you first started following Jesus, or times of recommitment). Imagine yourself in those moments and consider how you think about them now. If you are not sure you've ever said YES to God before, prayerfully consider whether the Spirit is leading you to do that now.

Start sharing

3. Which of the three key points do you find it hardest to hold on to? Why?

Start praying

4. Heavenly Father, in this time of Advent waiting, help us to be ready to say YES to you. Thank you that we can trust you are for us, can use anyone and can do the impossible! Amen

Start doing

5. Try and pray through the Covenant prayer (overpage) each day for this week. Don't overthink it but then afterwards be attentive to which parts were hard to say, perhaps jarred. Be open to why that might be (it might be a good thing). Ask God to lead you into greater freedom to be able to say YES to him more and more each day.

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you,
or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

The Methodist Covenant Prayer