



December 14, 2014
Giving Up on Perfect

DISCUSS:

If you could have the ideal Christmas, what would it look like for you?

LISTEN

Read [Luke 1:26-38](#). As you read this passage, try to imagine this scene from Mary's viewpoint.

[Q] The angel Gabriel told Mary she was highly favored. What does it mean to have found favor with God?

[Q] Read [Luke 11:27-28](#). What does Jesus say is true blessing?

[Q] Look at [Luke 1:34](#). Was Mary doubting? Is it okay to ask God questions like this?

[Q] Read each of the following verses, noting the situation or context of each:

[Matthew 19:26](#)

[Job 42:2](#)

[Jeremiah 32:27](#)

[Psalm 33:9](#)

What situations are you facing that tempt you to believe they are too hard for God? How does listening to God's word help?

OBEY

[Q] After Mary's encounter with the angel, how did she envision herself (Luke 1:38)?

[Q] Besides meeting Gabriel, what do you think enabled Mary to react the way she did to God interrupting her plans?

[Q] Read [Matthew 1:18-25](#). What was Joseph's reaction to the disruption of his plans?

Listen to Joseph's Song by Michael Card: tinyurl.com/JosephsSong

[Q] Can you think of an example from your own life when unwanted or unexpected changes to your plans turned out to be God's perfect plan?

APPLY

[Q] How does the original Christmas mess change your perspective on *your* imperfect Christmas?

[Q] If you had few possessions, no family or friends and no money, how would you celebrate Christmas?

PRAY

Check out these family Advent resources: valleycommunity.cc/resources/faithathome/faithathomeadvent2014