

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unearned Favor December 7, 2025

Summary

In this sermon, Kyle reminds us that God often gives His greatest gifts in the most surprising and simple places. Just as He chose Mary—a normal girl from an unknown town—to carry Jesus, God gives His unearned favor to ordinary people like us. The long-awaited Messiah came in humility, and through the Holy Spirit, God still works in ways that seem impossible. While we wait for the coming Kingdom of perfect peace, we are called to live out God's generosity now by giving grace and practical help to people in need. Because God gave first, we give, too—sharing His favor, hope and generosity with our community.

Scripture

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.
The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.
The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:1-9 (NIV)

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In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

Let's Start

When have you been surprised by someone's generosity toward you?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God been at work in your life since we last met?

Let's Talk

1. What part of Mary's story stood out to you the most, and why?
2. Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant." What would it look like for you to say and live that in your daily life?
3. Where do you see God giving surprising or unearned favor in your life?
4. What feels impossible right now, and how does Mary's story remind you that the Holy Spirit can make a way?
5. Isaiah 11 describes a peaceful Kingdom we can barely imagine. How does that future hope impact the way you live today?
6. How might God be inviting us to **live generously** in our community?
7. What encouraged you most about the Brighter Futures story?

Let's Act

Who in your life may need generosity or favor they haven't earned, and what is one practical way you could show it?

