

DISCUSSION GUIDE

CONNECT

Real Christmas trees or artificial trees. Which do you have and why?

LEARN & APPLY

Read Isaiah 9:1-7 & Luke 1 in its entirety

- How does Isaiah's prophecy of humility and honor relate to the events of Luke 1?
- There are four main characters in Luke 1: Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, and the Angel Gabriel. How does the Holy Spirit work in and through each of them?
- Zechariah and Elizabeth faced social shame due to their childlessness (Luke 1:7). How might that shame have affected their faith and relationship with God?
- Mary's situation as an unmarried pregnant woman could have brought shame in her community (Luke 1:26-38). How do you think she processed that potential rejection while trusting God's plan?
- Can you think of a time when God turned a difficult or shameful situation in your life into one of blessing?
- God's favor didn't remove challenges for Mary—it likely brought hardship and misunderstanding. How does this challenge our understanding of what it means to live under God's favor?

PRAY

Take time to pray with one another for God's favor (grace) to lift the darkness and gloom of sin and shame. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.



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