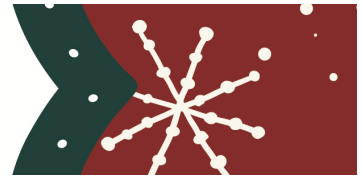


YOUR BEST CHRISTMAS



LESSON 1 // WANTING GOD'S BEST

Big Idea: In the first chapters of Luke's Gospel, we see that Mary received God's best because she truly wanted and pursued it. Her example shows us the way to His best for us—a life that is committed, selfless, purposeful, devoted to the Lord and trusting in Him and His plan.

Matthew 5:8 (NLT) *God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God*

2 Timothy 2:21 (NLT) *If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.*

Luke 1:30-33, 38 (NLT) *"Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end." ... Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.*

Luke 1:45-49 (NLT) *You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what He said. Mary responded, "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me."*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT) *Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*

Start Talking:

Talk about a situation where the Lord made a way for you when there seemed to be no way.

Start Thinking:

Read Matthew 5:8; 2 Timothy 2:21. How does a pure heart open the way for God's blessings?

Read Luke 1:30-33, 38. What does it mean that Mary found "favor" with God? How does this speak to you about how God wants to work in your life?

Read Luke 1:45-49. Why was Mary full of joy and praise? What has God done in your life that stirs up joy and praise in your heart?

Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Why is it often hard to "trust in the Lord" rather than depending "on your own understanding"?

Start Praying and Doing:

Based on Mary's example, pray simply that you would be "the Lord's servant"—no matter what circumstances you face—and He can do what He desires with your life. Acknowledge that His purpose is best for you and surrender your heart in a fresh way to Him as Lord.