

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary
Week #4– Apostles' Creed

Luke 1:26-38

One of the most common ways that we sin is by outright rejecting how God designed the universe to work. You are being disciplined. Everyone is disciplined by someone or something. The key question for us is, “What story are we buying into?” Some of us sin by using religion to not need God. We do lots of “good” religious things as a means of convincing ourselves we don’t need God.

The triune God of the universe—God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, three in one—is after the hearts of men. God is an initiating God.

He gets His holy hands dirty—He takes initiative to save us.

Symmetry:

God is not interested in mere action. He isn’t ultimately concerned with getting us to do the right things. He wants our hearts to delight ultimately in Him.

Clarity:

The message of the Bible is not that we must earn God’s love but that His love is freely offered to us. His love is freely given.

Community:

If we think that we are called to earn God’s love, we will compete with each other to prove that we are better than each other. If we know God’s love is a gift, we will serve and love each other out of love for God.

Counsel:

Let’s help each other stop trying to earn God’s love and instead live in the freedom and joy of knowing that He loves us and initiates a relationship with us.

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Discussion/Reflection Guide

READ LUKE 1:26-38

Why is it important, not only in this story but also in our lives, to know that our God initiates a relationship with His people?

How does Mary's response reveal faith in a God who overcomes impossibilities?

When have you questioned God's work in the midst of a difficult situation? How has God proved Himself throughout Scripture?

READ ISAIAH 1:11 AND JEREMIAH 31:33

Why did God not delight in these sacrifices (Isa. 1:11)? What was missing?

According to Jeremiah 31:33, what is the triune God after? Why is this important to recognize?

What is the difference between trying to earn God's approval and living like you already have it?

How might we help each other live with a greater awareness of God's initiating love?

How might we help each other delight more deeply in God?

What's your primary takeaway in response to the teaching on "Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary"?

What other thoughts or questions do you have?