



# FEAR NOT

## Fear Not, Mary

#npfearnot

Week 4  
4 of 4

December 24, 2017

**Bottom Line:** Fear NOT, only obey.

**Icebreaker:** What has been a favorite moment so far this Christmas? Or, what makes this Christmas different than Christmas last year?

**Key Verse:** *Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. “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 asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a virgin.” The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God . . . For the word of God will never fail. ” Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant. May everything you have said about me come true.” Luke 1:29-38 TLB*

Mary’s sense of inadequacy and the thought that she was highly favored were incompatible. She had to choose one or the other, and what she chose would determine the outcome of her life. It is the same for you and me. I can’t hold on to equal parts of inadequacy and believe that God has a great plan for my life. The thing that keeps most of us from moving out of low confidence into confident faith that we are loved and highly favored by God is that we misunderstand what that means. Being adequate for the task at hand and favored by God doesn’t mean it will be easy or problem free. It doesn’t mean that you’ll experience the favor of people, or the ease that would make everything smooth.

Being favored by God, experiencing His grace, DOES mean that He will make you adequate for anything He calls you to do. He will be with you, and you will find yourself equal to the task. You will have the power to do anything He asks. You will need to respond with complete surrender and submission to His plan, and He will infuse you with power and peace. You will be adequate. Mary discovered that, and because she did, we have the Savior.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most specifically from the weekend message?

Discuss: “Be careful not to confuse a sense of inadequacy with humility.”

Mary faced criticism, uncertainty, and change. Which of those are most likely to trigger a sense of fear and inadequacy in you?

It’s interesting that Zechariah’s fear was rooted to some degree in his age. He was too old. Mary’s fear and inadequacy was related to her youth and inexperience. What seems to prompt us to believe at very basic levels that we are not enough?

Discuss: “God’s grace means that God is with us.”

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

“Even the people you most admire fear inadequacy sometimes.” Do you believe this? Why or why not?

Notice that the angel didn’t tell Mary how adequate she was, and how she could do this thing. He simply told her that God was with her. How did that address her fear?

Mary responded quickly with submission and surrender to God’s plans—complete obedience. God was with her, and she found she was adequate for all God required. How do you think her life might have turned out, and how the story would have gone otherwise?

Discuss: Is there any alternative to overcoming the fear of inadequacy other than full surrender to God’s plans?

# NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Share the thing you would do for God in 2018 if you were sure you could do it.
2. Pray as a group for each other.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Fear NOT, only obey.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: Luke 2:6-7

Tuesday: Luke 1:29-34

Wednesday: Luke 1:45

Thursday: Philippians 4:13

Friday: 2 Peter 1:3

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*