There’s Something About Mary

Focus
Today, God wants to empower us to say yes to the adventure He has for us. Intentionally say yes to God, far more than you say no.

Fun
What is the bravest thing you have ever done or the greatest risk you have ever taken?

Review
Key Scriptures: Luke 1:26–38

1. **God’s favor is for a purpose.**
   God gives us favor so that we can serve others, not so we can have status. God gives us favor so that we can do the risky, sometimes messy things He has called us to do. We don’t have to understand everything, we just need to be willing to trust God.

2. **God uses ordinary people.**
   God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. We simply have to be available to the purposes of God. It is not about how gifted we are but about how willing we are.

3. **God is looking for people who will say yes to Him.**
   Just like Mary was willing to “bring” Jesus into her generation, God is looking for people who will say yes to bringing Jesus into our generation. But in order to do this we must resist the fear the enemy terrorizes us with. God never gave us a spirit of fear. Instead, God gave us a spirit of love, power, and a sound mind. Trust God and say yes to Him today.

*Group Dynamics Idea* Ask questions that can’t be answered with a simple “yes” or “no,” and don’t necessarily have a “right” or “wrong” answer. Open-ended questions invite
unguarded responses, sharing of opinions, and cognitive evaluation. Closed-ended questions sound like school and shut down the conversation.

Discuss

1. What is the most important thing you have ever said yes to?

2. Christine Caine said that her mentor told her, “Do it afraid, until you aren’t afraid anymore.” How do you relate or not relate to this saying? What are you doing now or want to do that would require risk?

3. Mary delivered Jesus into this world. In the same way, how can we deliver Christ to our generation?

4. God’s purpose is often very different from our plans. How can you make room in your life today for the purposes of God?

5. Read Proverbs 3:5–6. Is there something impossible that God is calling you to? Take a moment and write down what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. Now commit your heart and plans to God and say yes to Him today.

Take Home  As we conclude, remember the following:

- God’s favor is for a purpose.
- God uses ordinary people who are available.
- God wants us to say yes to Him.

Prayer  Jesus, we are willing to look foolish for the sake of the gospel. We are willing to trust You. We want to say yes to You today. We want to bring Christ to our generation in the same way Mary did. We thank You for Your favor. Help us to always say yes to You. Help us be willing to risk it all to bring Christ into this world. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

*New Leader Tip*  Start your group by clearly sharing the time and goals of the group. Example: “We’ll talk about this message until 8:00 pm, then we’ll have prayer time.” This gives you permission to redirect, when necessary, throughout the discussion.