

## The Paradoxes of Vision

### Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. In your opinion, are any of your five senses significantly above or below average? Explain.
2. Did you have any grand ideas or plans as a child? Explain.

**Read the following passage:** Luke 1:26-38.

Although some philosophers, scientists, and other academics have denied the existence of any ultimate purpose or meaning for human life, the drive for significance shows no signs of abating. Purpose and meaning are an irreducible component of being human. The angel Gabriel delivered a stunning vision to Mary which would give her life incredible significance. Even though Mary's giving birth to the Savior of the world was clearly an unrepeatable event, there is a very real sense in which God intends to birth destiny through each one of us. To effectively walk in God's mission for our lives, we, like Mary, need to recognize and embrace vision from God.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What can Mary's interaction with the angel teach us about vision?
2. What were some hurdles Mary had to get over in order to receive the vision God was giving to her? What are some reasons we might resist a vision God is communicating to us?
3. How would you respond to someone who claimed that life is ultimately meaningless?
4. Are you currently living with a strong sense of mission and vision? Explain. What might result when we live for an extended period of time without a sense of mission and vision? What can we do to strengthen a sense of mission and vision in our lives?
5. What are some elements of God's vision for our lives that are common to all followers of Jesus?
6. How do we recognize when a vision or mission is from God, and not just an idea we like?
7. Is there anything that you think God has been wanting you to do, but which you have been putting off for one reason or another? Explain.
8. Why does an inordinate preoccupation with ourselves often lead to a feeling of insignificance?

9. What is one thing you think God is calling you to in this season of your life? Explain.

**Pray**