

# 04 THE PROMISED ONE

KEY TEXT: LUKE 1:26-38

## CENTRAL truth

With Christmas approaching, we will look at the news of Jesus's coming in the book of Luke. Together, we'll be reminded that **God sent Jesus to deliver us from sin**. He truly is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

## key question

**How does God's sending Jesus, His Son, demonstrate His faithfulness to us?**

The child promised to Mary would fulfill the covenant (or sacred promise) that God had made to David, one of Israel's greatest kings, hundreds of years earlier. Talk about a long wait! Through Joseph, Jesus's adoptive father, His lineage could be traced back to King David. Jesus's arrival is the ultimate demonstration of God's faithfulness to His promise.

## keep in mind

- The Christmas and Advent seasons can bring a variety of emotions and feelings for students. Within your small group, you likely have students who are eagerly anticipating Christmas as well as some who are grieving or otherwise struggling. As you remind students that Jesus's arrival—the very reason we celebrate Christmas—is proof that God is not distant or cold, be present and available to those who may need prayer and encouragement.
- For Mary, becoming pregnant outside of her soon-to-be marriage would likely have resulted in public shame and rejection. At times, following the Lord may be costly and difficult to do. Help students identify ways in which they can obey and follow the Lord, even when it may be costly.

## application

**How can God's grace toward us help us see ourselves and one another differently?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Help students to remember that the Advent and Christmas seasons are a time for reorienting our hearts and minds around Jesus's first arrival and to prepare for His return, when He will make all things new. Jesus is our ultimate hope.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Because of the busyness and activity of the Advent and Christmas seasons, we can lose sight of the true reason we celebrate. Leaders have the opportunity for this small group time together to be a moment for everyone to slow down and be reminded of what God has done in Christ.

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