

Make a Commitment 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. Do you like Christmas shopping for other people? Explain.
2. What is one area of your life in which you like variety, and one area in which you prefer consistency?

Read the following passages: Luke 1:26-38, 57-64; Matthew 1:18-25.

When Mary received the shocking news that she would give birth to “the Son of the Most High,” she responded with the most important commitment any person will ever make: “I am the Lord’s servant.” Our commitments define our lives. But many of us are afraid to make a commitment. Nearly every area of life offers an overwhelming number of possibilities. What if we change our minds? What if we make the wrong choice? What if something better comes along later? Making a commitment feels risky, but that’s where we find real life. The Christmas story encourages us to make commitments in three key areas: Our position in this life (we are servants of God), our perspective toward reality (the Lord is gracious), and our interactions with people (we are committed to natural family, church family, and our close friendships).

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

1. Is commitment a topic that makes you nervous in any way? Explain. When is it a good idea to refrain from making a commitment? When is it appropriate to make a short-term commitment?
2. How can we recognize when we’re more concerned with our own agenda than we are with God’s agenda? What are some of the things you think God wants you to do? Are you afraid of what God may ask you to do? Explain. Would you say that you are all-in with God right now?
3. Can you think of any times God gave you very specific instructions for your life? Explain.
4. God instructed Zechariah to name his son John, which means “the Lord is gracious.” What are some of the ways God has been gracious to you? Do you regularly see the grace of God at work in and around your life? Explain. How should the reality that God is gracious impact how we approach life?
5. God told Joseph not to be afraid to commit himself to Mary in marriage. What are some ways our commitments to people should differ from our commitment to God? Describe your current commitments in each of the three areas. Are you as committed as you would like to be?

- Natural family
 - Church family
 - Close friendships
6. How does the biblical concept of covenant connect with the topic of commitment? What do biblical covenants with God and with people look like?
 7. Are you a member of Freedom Church? If not, is this a step you would consider taking in 2025?

Pray