

Make Room for Faith

God doesn't work around people. God works *through* people.

Faith is choosing to cling to the character of God until His character becomes the shape of your character.

Who are you making room for now? Your faith grows through the voices you make room for.

MARY'S "LET IT BE" (LUKE 1:38)

"Let it be to me according to Your word." Greek: *genoito* — "Let it come into being in me." Hebrew idea: אָמֵן (amen) — "I entrust myself to Your word."

GOD'S COVENANT PATTERN

God works through people of faith — not around them. Abraham • Moses • Mary • Joseph • Elizabeth • Shepherds

MARY MADE ROOM FOR FAITHFUL VOICES

Gabriel • Jesus • Elizabeth • Joseph • Shepherds • Simeon & Anna

QUALITIES OF PEOPLE OF FAITH

People of Faith are marked by: Patience • Listening • Understanding • Compassion • Truth + Grace • Humility • Encouragement These voices grow faith.

THE OTHER VOICES MARY COULD HAVE MADE ROOM FOR

Gossip • Suspicion • Rumors • Fear • Cynicism • Judgment • Impatience • Anger • Contempt These voices shrink faith.

THE IMPACT OF VOICES

Mary's future was shaped by the voices she let in. So is yours.

TWO KINDS OF VOICES

Voices of Faith

patient, listening, compassionate, wise

Voices of Non-Faith

impatient, judgmental, angry, uncurious Which voices are shaping you?

WHO AM I MAKING ROOM FOR?

Who am I making room for? Pray for the right voices Make room (time) for people of faith Identify & limit harmful influences

BOTTOM LINE

Your faith grows through the voices you make room for $\boldsymbol{-}$ and joy comes alive in you.