

## Reflection & Discussion Questions

### Sweet Surrender

#### Luke 1:38

1. The initial part of Mary's response to the angel Gabriel was, "*Behold the maidservant of the Lord.*" Why do you think she began her reply with these words? What does this show you about Mary's character?
2. The word for maidservant is *doule*, and it means a female slave who is in a permanent relationship of servitude, her will being altogether consumed with the will of another. It implies obedience and devotion. In what ways is this definition appealing to you?
  - In what ways is it uncomfortable or troubling to you?
3. Mary finishes her reply to Gabriel with these words: "*Let it be to me according to your word.*" What do you think she knew about her Lord that allowed her to respond with such a complete heart of surrender?
4. Think about the words surrender and brokenness. How would you describe each word? What do you think and feel about these words pertaining to your own life?
5. How are surrender and brokenness similar? How do they differ? Are they mutually dependent or is one dependent on the other? If so, in what way(s)?
6. The world generally has a negative view toward the idea of surrender, associating it with having to raise a white flag when defeated by an enemy. The world also often sees brokenness as failure and ruin. How does a Christian's surrender to and brokenness before her God differ from the world's view of these words?

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7. Surrender and brokenness are a choice. Can you think of a time when you chose to surrender to or be broken before the Lord even though you didn't *feel* like doing so? What was the outcome of the situation?
  - Can you recall a time when you held on to your own will and chose not to surrender or be broken? What was the outcome in this situation?
  
8. In what ways are you willing to accept, with complete trust, surrender and joy, whatever God has for you? In what ways are you hesitant?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What are some specific ways you can increase your desire and ability to surrender to the Lord regardless of the circumstances?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Is there something in your life, or an area of your life, that you need to surrender to the Lord? Think of Mary's response to the angel. Write your response to the Lord concerning what needs to be surrendered.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. As you have grown in your Christian walk, have your thoughts and attitudes toward surrender and brokenness changed? If so, how and in what specific ways would you like to grow in the areas of surrender and brokenness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. How could you describe the beauty and freedom of surrender and brokenness to a sister who may be struggling to let go of her will?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Sit before the Lord and meditate on John 12:24. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and show you what He wants you to know and learn about this verse. Write down what you sense He is telling you.