

## **All or Nothing – December 18, 2011**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **LOOK**

Sometimes in a new job or a new situation in life there is no learning curve, no small steps towards a goal – just one big leap and you're right in the middle of it.

1. Describe a time when you were thrown right into the fire. What was that like? Was there fear or excitement or something else?
2. When is faith sometimes an all or nothing proposition?

### **BOOK**

Luke 1:26-38 – The Annunciation

1. Discuss the incredible announcement that Gabriel makes to Mary. How does he approach her with the news?
2. What might Mary's cooperation cost her physically, emotionally, spiritually? Did she seem to be concerned about that?
3. How does Mary's response inspire you?
4. What if Mary had not submitted? Does God really rely on us human beings to carry out his will? What are the ramifications of that?

### **TOOK**

When Gabriel announces God's incredible plan for Mary to become the mother of God, she does not bargain, stall, or change the plan in any way, even though it is extremely inconvenient for her. She simply submits.

1. How hard and inconvenient is it to go entirely with God's plan for our lives? Do we even allow ourselves to dream what God might dream for us?
2. Mary must have realized she was a part of something much bigger than herself and so she was willing to make the personal sacrifices necessary for God's plan of salvation to happen. How can we begin to think and pray like that?