



- 1 **Israel waited a long time before God fulfilled his promise of a Messiah.** What are some of the most difficult aspects of waiting for you? Think of questions that are provoked, discouragements that are awakened, resources that are tapped, and doubts that loom large when we are waiting.

 What encouragement can you glean from stories of waiting found in God's word?

 When have you had to wait a long time for God to answer prayer or help you in difficulty? What made it difficult to wait?

 What have been some of the most helpful things for you in your times of waiting?

- 2 **Gabriel said in Luke 1:37 that nothing would be impossible for God.**

 What are some of the ways you see God showing his power and might in Scripture?

 How do these verses help you take God at his word about his promises?

- 3 **Discuss the following thought from Donald Macleod about the virgin birth.** "The virgin birth is posted on guard at the door of the mystery of Christmas; and none of us must think of hurrying past it. It stands on the threshold of the New Testament, blatantly supernatural, defying our rationalism, informing us that all that follows belongs to the same order as itself and that if we find it offensive there is no point in proceeding further." (*The Person of Christ*, 37)

♥ *What stands out to you personally as a significant aspect of the virgin birth?*

⚙️ *Why do you think God chose this path to fulfill His promise about sending God the Son to earth?*

💬 *What responses should we have to this miraculous work?*

4 **What are some of the promises of God that people find most difficult to believe?** Talk about why that is.

⚙️ *What specifically makes it difficult for you to believe?*

♥ *When have you struggled to believe a promise of God or a part of God's Word? What was that like, and what helped you? Or, perhaps how can we pray for you in a current struggle with believing some promise of God's word?*

5 **What are ways you can intentionally encourage others by reminding them of God's promises?**

📖 *What are some key promises that we all need to remember as Christians? What are some of your favorite promises in Scripture that you could share with others?*