

Answering The Call



RING
RING



HELLO?

MAY I SPEAK
WITH YOUR
FATHER, PLEASE?



HECK, YOU DON'T NEED
MY PERMISSION! BE
MY GUEST!



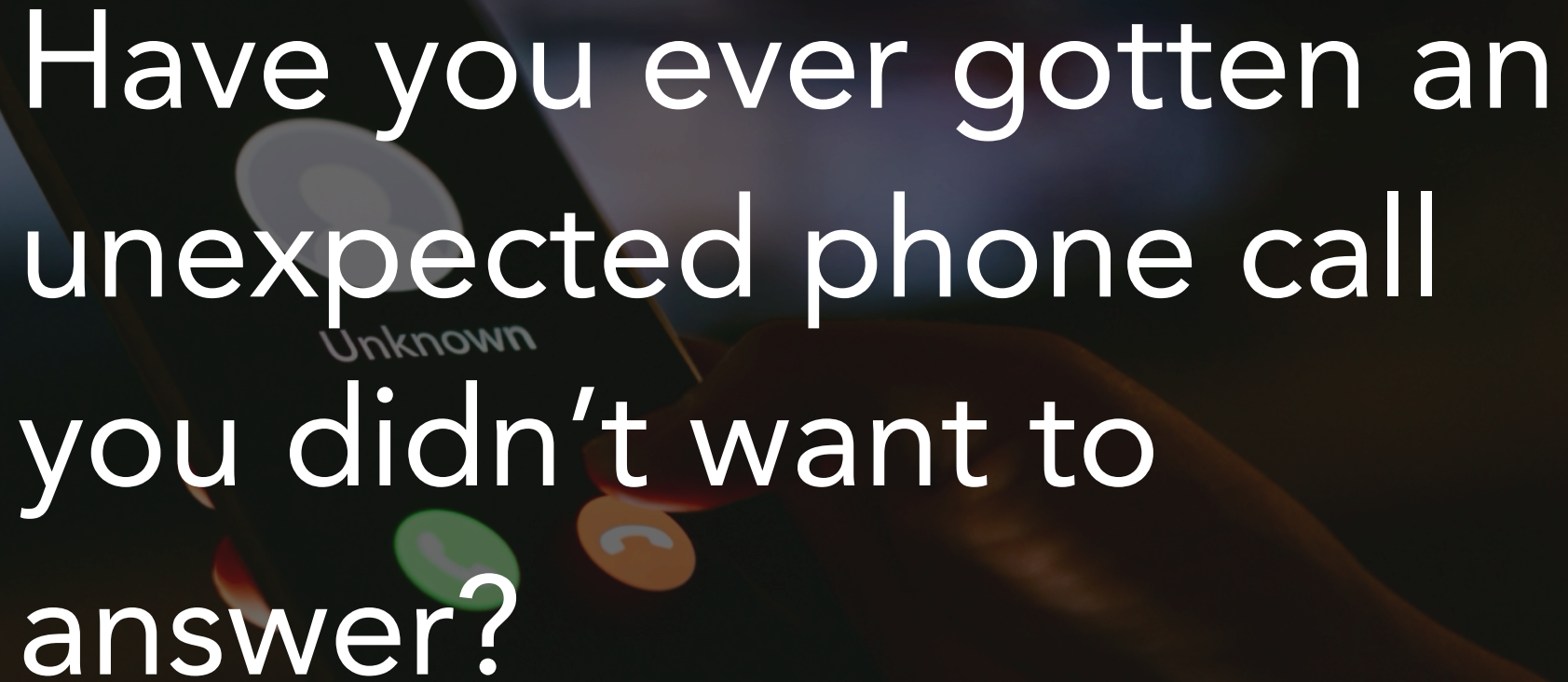
WHAT A
WEIRDO.



Answering The Call

Unknown

Out of Nowhere

A hand holding a smartphone. The screen displays a call log entry for an 'Unknown' number with a missed call icon. The background is dark and blurred.

Have you ever gotten an
unexpected phone call
you didn't want to
answer?

A hand holding a smartphone with a call notification on the screen. The notification shows a white telephone handset icon on a black background, with the word "Unknown" written below it. The background of the image is dark and blurred, showing the hand and the phone's interface.

When God Calls...

1. It is NOT easy.

2. But it IS good.

The Question:

How can I say YES to
God's unexpected call?

*The example of Mary
(Luke 1:26-38)*



1 • Say YES to
the real me.

Luke 1:26-27

Luke 1:26-27

26 In the sixth month the
angel Gabriel was sent from God to
a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

*27 to a virgin betrothed to a man
whose name was Joseph, of the
house of David. And the virgin's
name was Mary.*

- **When? Then.**
- **Where? There.**
- **Who? Mary.**

- When? ~~Then~~ **Now.**
- Where? ~~There~~ **Here.**
- Who? ~~Mary~~ **Me.**

Who

Unknown

does God call?

*Only
rich
people.*



*Only
powerful
people.*



*Only
influential
people.*



*Only
smart
people.*



*Only
holy
people.*



*Only
strong
people.*



*Only good-
looking
people.*

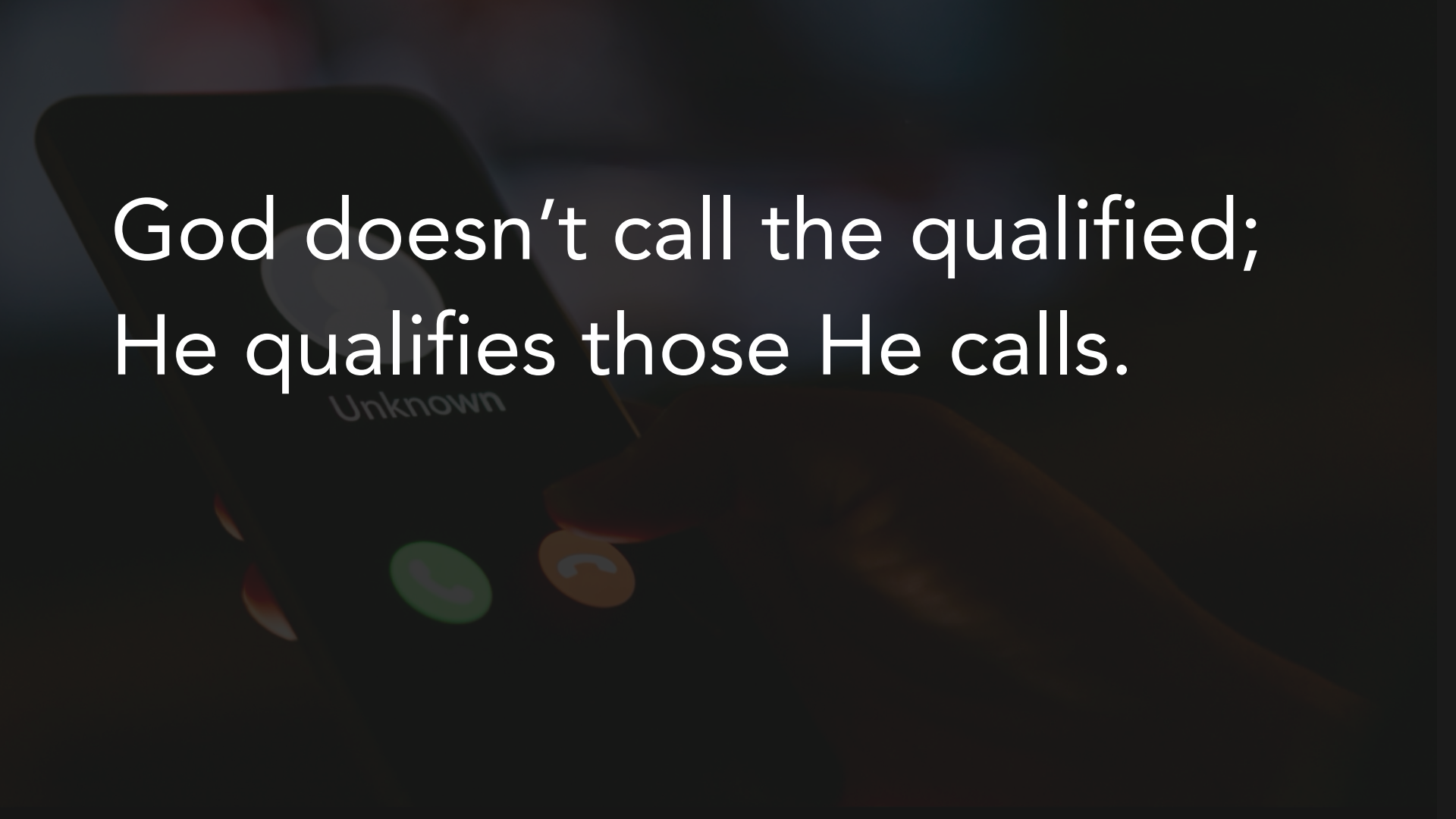


But God chose what is foolish in
the world to shame the wise;
God chose what is weak in the
world to shame the strong.

-1 Corinthians 1:27

Humble yourselves before the
Lord, and he will exalt you.

-James 4:10



God doesn't call the qualified;
He qualifies those He calls.

God does not choose people
because of their ability,
but because of their availability.

-Brother Andrew

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

-Hebrews 11:6



“Here am I. Send me!”

-Isaiah 6:8



2 • Say YES to
the gift!

Luke 1:28-30

Luke 1:28-30

28 And he came to her and said,
“Greetings, O favored one, the Lord
is with you!”

29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

• Favored one?

Unknown



What is the gift?

- Forgiven life
- Fulfilling life
- Forever life

With me!

Unknown



Even though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death, I
will fear no evil, for you are with
me; your rod and your staff, they
comfort me.

-Psalm 23:4

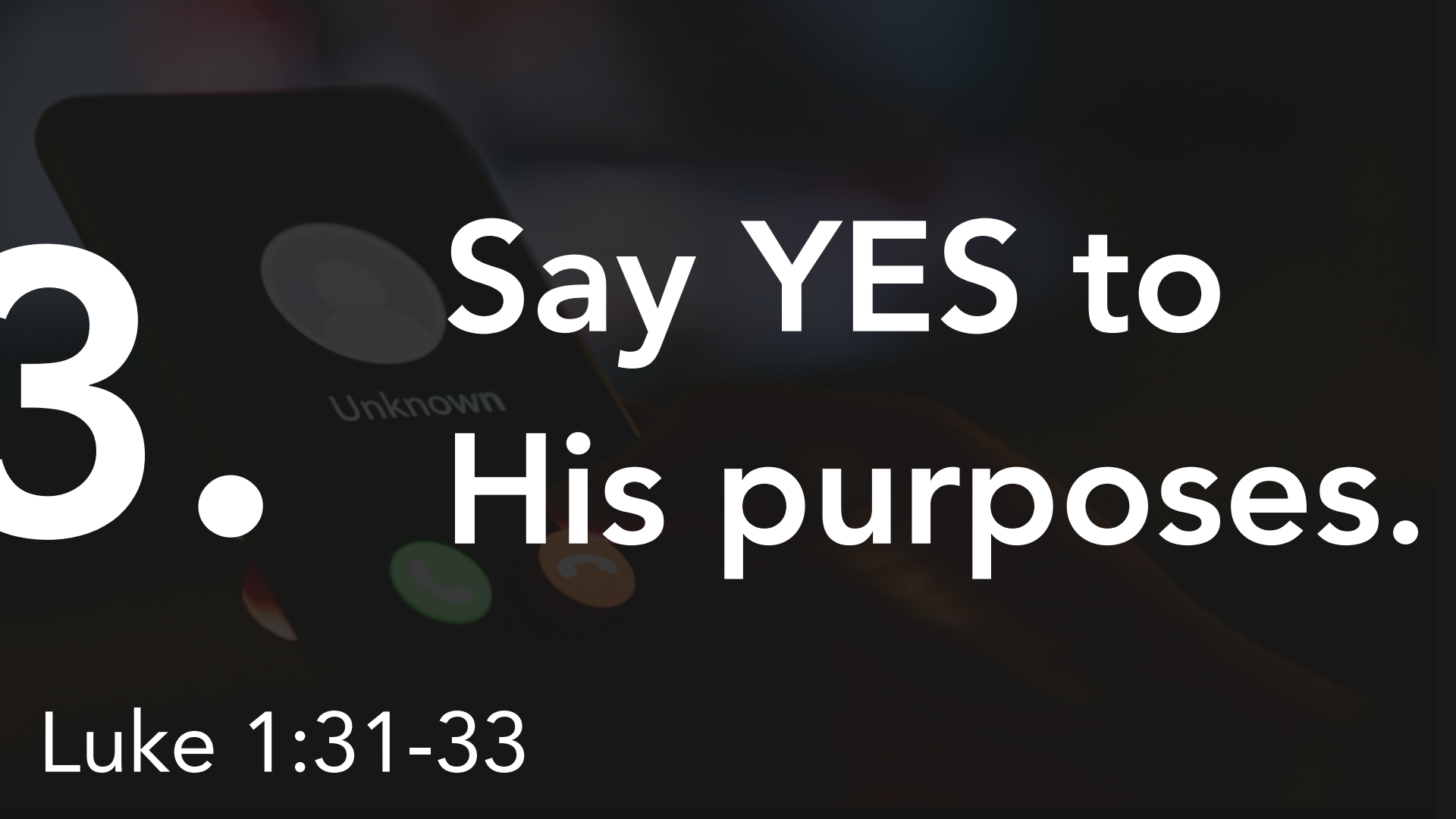
Life with God is not immunity from
difficulties,
but peace in difficulties.

-C.S. Lewis

I want the presence of God
Himself, or I don't want anything
at all to do with religion...

I want all that God has or I don't
want any.

-A.W. Tozer



3 • Say YES to
His purposes.

Luke 1:31-33

Luke 1:31-33

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called
the Son of the Most High. And the
Lord God will give to him the throne
of his father David, 33 and he will
reign over the house of
Jacob forever, and of his kingdom
there will be no end.”

You will...

you shall...

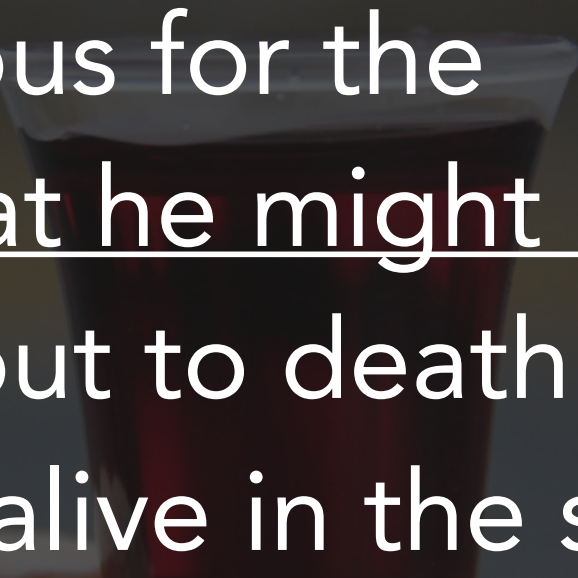
A large, dark, textured rock stands prominently in a grassy field. The rock is the central focus, with a rough, weathered surface. The background is a dark, overcast sky, and the foreground is a field of grass. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Trust in the Lord forever,
for the Lord God
is an everlasting rock.

-Isaiah 26:4

The Great Purpose!

- Know Jesus
- Make Him known



For Christ also suffered once for
sins, the righteous for the
unrighteous, that he might bring us
to God, being put to death in the
flesh but made alive in the spirit...

-1 Peter 3:18

The Great Purpose!

- Know Jesus
- Make Him known

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a wooden stick with several colorful beads (red, green, orange) threaded through it. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

You didn't choose me.

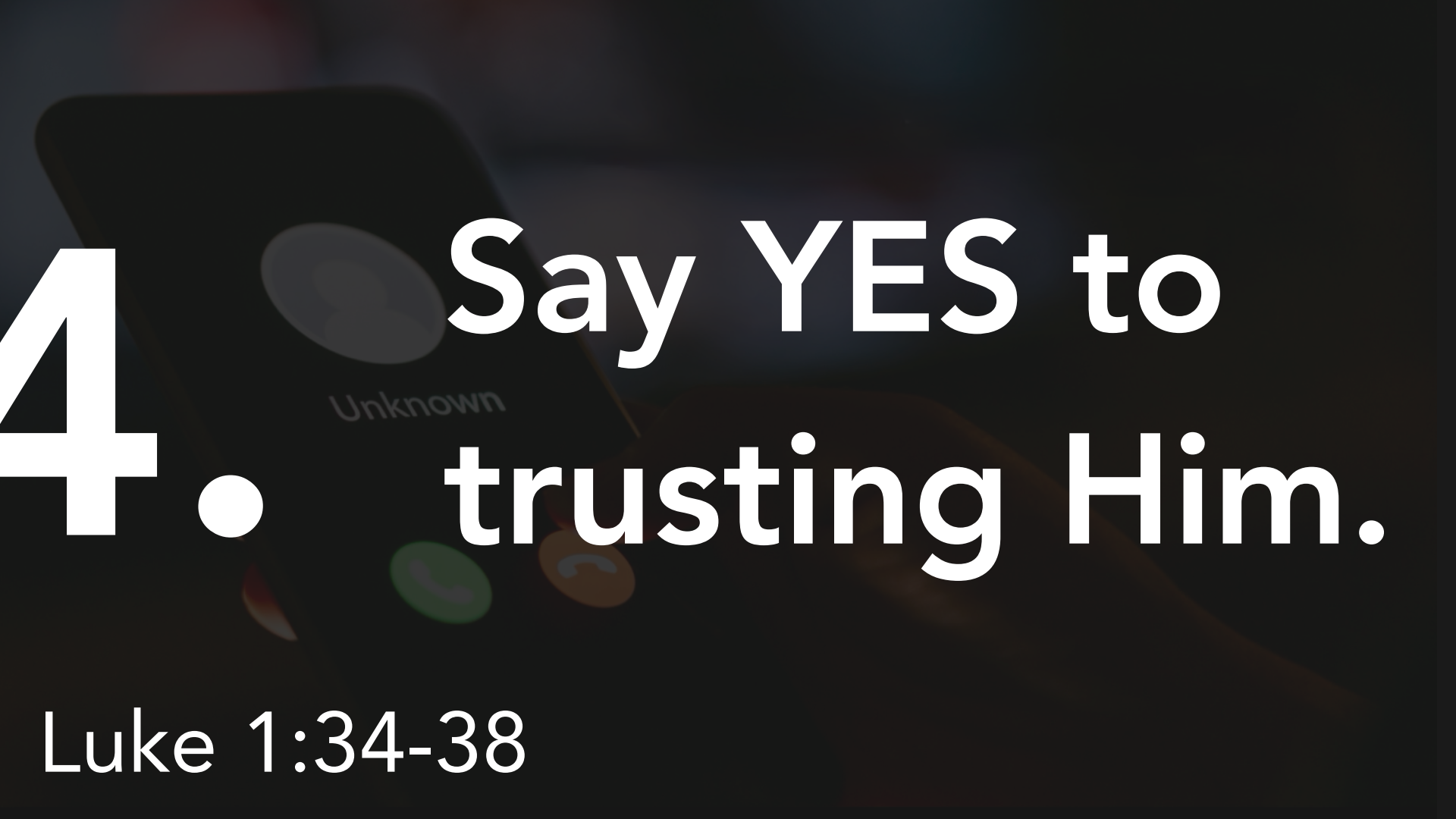
I chose you.

I appointed you to go and produce
lasting fruit...

-Jesus (John 16:15)

But you are a chosen race, a royal
priesthood, a holy nation, a people
for his own possession, that you
may proclaim the excellencies of
him who called you out of darkness
into his marvelous light.

-1 Peter 2:9



4 • **Say YES to
trusting Him.**

Luke 1:34-38

Luke 1:34-38

34 And Mary said to the angel,
"How will this be, since I am a
virgin?"

35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.”

*38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am
the servant of the Lord; let it be to
me according to your word."*

And the angel departed from her.

- The Holy Spirit How.
- Let it be to me.
- And then comes the real trust.

Closing Question

What does it look like for you to answer God's call these days?

Closing Quote

"You would not have called to me unless I had been calling to you," said the Lion.

-C.S. Lewis, *The Silver Chair*

Closing Verse

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

-Romans 8:28

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