

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, December 11th, 2016

12/11 (Third Sunday of Advent): Embracing God's Movement (Luke 1:26-38)

Sermon Recap: Doug spoke about the miraculous work that actually occurred in Mary's story. She was visited by a miraculous messenger, with a miraculous message, whereby she was invited to be part of the miracle! In reflection of this great work in advent he presented the reality that we too are invited into the miracle (which stands as evidence of God's love) and if we accept, we are led to joy through humble service.

1. Do you recall a miraculous event in your lifetime that seemed or still seems impossible to explain?
2. Doug said the message Mary received was not new, but very old in fact. What does 2 Samuel 7:12ff have to say about this baby Mary would deliver?
3. What must have been most shocking to Mary about what Gabriel delivered to her?
4. Doug said that humble service begins with humble speech. As an aid he contrasted six different kinds of speech: quick words, angry words, slanderous words VS. apologetic words, prayerful words, and respectful words. Where do you struggle most in these examples? How can you begin to humble your speech?
5. Doug highlighted that Mary must have been in doubt and confusion at some point, and visiting Elizabeth was a perfect help to her. What joy was shared with her by Elizabeth?
6. Have you ever experienced doubt or confusion in serving God? How does 1Pe 1:3-9 speak to our struggles and coming joy?
7. Read Lk 1:37. What in your life, currently, needs the light of this verse?
8. How does a group take the message of Christmas, found here in Mary's story, outward?

Work Application

9. Mary had some sense of this miraculous message – she had heard it before – but now it was to involve her directly and there was some brief hesitancy or perhaps even fear. In what way is working in our society, as messenger of God, evoke fear or hesitancy?
10. How does God speak into your reality the same way he spoke into Mary's?