

**Read:** Luke 1:28-39, 42-47; Luke 2:8-16; Psalm 46:10

**Open:**

- What is your favorite Christmas song or carol?
- What sorts of things do you hear during the Christmas season?
- What is the message of Christmas through a secular worldview?
- What is the message of Christmas through a Christian worldview?

**Dig:**

*Read: Luke 1:28-39 (NLT)*

- In Luke 1:28, who appears to Mary and how is she greeted?
- What does it look like to be "highly favored?"
- What does it mean that God's favor is upon us?
- How important is it to know our identity with God?
- In Luke 1:34, how does Mary respond to Gabriel's message that she give birth to the "Son of the Most High...he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"?
- What does it take to hear the Words of God? What needs to happen for you to hear?
- What was required for Mary to respond and hear the Words of God?
- Mary heard God's message and did what next in Luke 1:39?
- In Luke 1:42 & 45, how did Mary's cousin Elizabeth confirm the Word of God to Mary?
- In faith Mary heard God's words through the Angel Gabriel and in obedience travel to visit her cousin. What is the response from Mary in Luke 1:46-47?
- Why do most people go back to what they know in times of uncertainty?

*Read: Luke 2:8-16*

- God chose to include the shepherds in the account of Jesus' birth. Why do you think this was included? What is the significance here?
- In Luke 2:10-11, what is the Good News that is presented to the shepherds?
- What did the shepherds hear in Luke 2:13-16? What do think this sounded like to them?
- How did the shepherds respond to this glorious announcement?
- How does faith lead us to Jesus?

**Reflect:**

- How does following Christ bring peace in clarity amidst the darkness and confusion of the world today?
- What can we do to hear God speaking in our lives more clearly?
- When was a time in your life God made a way for you that strengthened your belief in Him?
- What is God calling you to do to respond in obedience right now in your life? Share how God is moving in your life?
- Encourage one another to set our minds on the Word, to do life together, and seek Christ!