

December 5

NEXT STEPS



The Wonder of Christmas: Mary - Love

This Sunday, we will continue our Advent Series: The Wonder of Christmas. Our first message focuses on the story of Mary.

Questions to *Dig Deeper*:

1. What do we learn about Joseph in (Luke 1:27)? How is Mary described? Why do you think this might be significant?
2. How does the angel encourage Mary in verses 28-31? Have you ever experienced God's grace or favor in an unusual way? Talk about it. How did it feel? How did you respond?
3. In (Luke 1:32) Gabriel says that Jesus will be "great." Then he describes four things that Jesus will be or have or do. What are they? What is important about these descriptors?
4. Our concept of kingship these days is pretty shallow, mostly centering around the foibles of the British royal family. What power did kings have in the ancient world? What would it mean to have a king whose kingdom would never end?
5. What progression do you see in Mary's responses in (Luke 1:29, 34, 38)? How does Gabriel answer her question about how this could happen (v. 35-37)? Have you ever experienced going from confusion to questioning to faith? What was the situation?
6. What do you think the angel's statement in (Luke 1:37) meant for Mary? What could it mean for you today?
7. This week's big idea is that, "Love is messy and selfless." What opportunities have you had recently to show Christ-like love to others that has or will stretch you?
8. Bill ended the message with a short description of radical love. What resonated (or didn't resonate) with you about that?