

SERMON: An Announcement for the Confused **SERIES:** Hark: Christmas According to the Angels
SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:18-25 **SPEAKER:** Pastor Brady Wolcott **Date:** December 15, 2019

THE GOAL: The primary goal of a small group at Grace is to develop a Christian community where Jesus is experienced through the gospel.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS: Use these questions to explore how God is at work in our families, communities, workplaces, and church.

1. Where have you seen God at work in your life this week?
2. What temptations have you been facing this week? How is God delivering you?
3. How have you experienced God's grace this week?
4. In what ways are you growing in your love for God?
5. In what ways are you growing in your love for others?
6. Have you started or stopped something this week just because you love Jesus?

REVIEW: Use these questions to better understand and apply the passage/sermon.

Observation: as a group talk through and summarize the passage. Think through Who, What, Where, When, How, Why questions together.

Interpretation: answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?
3. What does this passage teach us about salvation/grace?
4. How does this passage point to Christ?

Application: answer these questions together:

1. How does this passage convict you? Encourage you? Inspire you?
2. What specific truth do you see about God and how would your life be different if you really believed it?
3. By God's grace, what commitments do you need to make this week? Or, what do you need to start obeying/believing?

GO DEEPER: Use these questions to go deeper into the passage, minds, and hearts.

1. Lesson 1: Without seeing spiritual realities we will always be confused. Does the truth that Jesus is both God and man confuse you? How does "God With Us" actually answer all our questions about God? About ourselves?
2. Lesson 2: Don't be confused, your biggest problem is you. We need a Savior from our sin. Not a teacher, example, or coach. Do you primarily see Jesus as your teacher or as your savior? Why is it so important that he be your Savior before he can be your teacher? (Think about the difference between grace and works).
3. Lesson 3: When you're confused by God obey him anyway. Is there something that God is asking you to do that is confusing? How would faith respond?
4. Use a real life scenario to talk through these four questions: 1) What is God asking you to do? 2) Why is it confusing? 3) What are the spiritual realities that you need to see? 4) How does God With Us empower you to obey?

Pray: Honor God for his revelation of himself through Jesus Christ. Confess any confusion you have that has led to disobedience. Ask God to help you walk live obediently in faith especially in those areas that are hard or confusing.