

SERMON: An Announcement for the Lowly
SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-38

SERIES: Hark: Christmas According to the Angels
SPEAKER: Pastor Mark **Date:** December 8, 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: The gospel is grace to those who least expect it and deserve it? Does your salvation still "surprise" you? Do you struggle to believe that, like Mary, God sees you and that God is for you?
2. Lesson 2: Be in awe of the incarnation and believe that nothing is impossible with God. In what area of your life do you need to apply "nothing is impossible with God?" A temptation? An area of suffering? A relationship?
3. Lesson 3: The gospel calls us to a faith that surrenders all. How does Mary's faith encourage you? How does Mary's faith point ahead to Jesus' faith? Is there an area of your life that you are still refusing to turn over to God? Remember it is only in submission that we can experience the grace of God.
4. Read Galatians 4:4-7. How does your shared son-ship with Christ help you to declare this statement: "In Christ I can give up all that I have, because in Christ I have all that I need"?

Pray: Praise and worship God for his incarnation. Confess areas of your life that you have not submitted to Christ. Ask God to use his word and his Spirit to allow you to trust that he sees you, is for you, and loves you.