

An Unplanned Pregnancy

Sermon Based Life Group Notes for the week of December 1

Getting To Know Each Other

- Within your family and friends, what is the most miraculous birth story you have heard?
- What is the most surprising event, in your life, you have had to handle?

Into the Bible

Read Luke 1:26-38

- What can we learn about angels from Mary's initial reaction to her encounter?
- How does the angel reassure Mary? Verse 31
- What does the word "favored" mean? Verse 28 and 31
- What would have been Mary's biggest fears after hearing the angel's message?
- What is Mary's reaction to the message? Verse 34
- In verse 36, why does the angel mention Elizabeth?
- What is Mary's response in verse 38?
- In verses 39-41, what did Mary do next?
- What is happening to Mary and Elizabeth in verses 42 – 55. What are they doing?
- When does Mary return home to tell her parents and Joseph? Verse 56
- Application: Do you realize that you are favored by God? How do you react to this?
- Application: How have you seen God do the impossible in your life?
- Application: Are you following Mary's example by accepting God's plan for you?
- Application: Who is the first person you would call when you hear good news? Bad news? Or when you are confused?

Read Matthew 1:18-25

- What does it mean to be "pledged to be married"? How is this similar to engagement? How is it different?
- How did Joseph respond when he discovered Mary was pregnant? What does it mean that he was a "righteous man and didn't want to expose her to public disgrace"? See Deuteronomy 23:23 and 24:1
- How did God intervene?
- Who was this baby going to be? V 21-23
- How would you describe Joseph in verse 24?
- Why is verse 25 important?
- Why is a virgin birth so critical to our faith?
- What would have been the most difficult aspect of this situation for Mary and Joseph?
- Application: How do you listen to God's guiding voice? Do you faithfully follow Him?
- Application: What has been the most difficult situation you have found yourself in? How did you walk through it? Did you sense that God was with you and leading you?