

Sermon Title: Reclaim the Wonder: A Thrill of Hope

Sermon Scripture: Isaiah 9:2–7; Luke 1:26–38



Sermon Discussion Guide (11/30)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture

Read Isaiah 9:2-7 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

What is the contrast between light and darkness in these verses? What does it reveal to us about God that this Scripture acknowledges the darkness before proclaiming that light will come to the darkness?

Read Luke 1:26-38. According to verses 29-34, how does Mary initially respond to the words of the angel?

In verse 38, how does Mary ultimately respond to the words of the angel? What does the progression of Mary's answer reveal to us about the nature of faith and surrender?

What do you think verse 37 has to do with leading Mary to ultimately surrender to God's promise of hope?

Application

How are you beginning this Advent season? With excitement and anticipation? With grief or worry about the future? How does God's promise of bringing light into the darkness give you hope for what this season may bring in your life?

In what ways do you feel incapable or ill-equipped to be used by God in ways like Mary to bring hope and light to the world? How does knowing that God's light breaks through in unexpected people give you confidence in knowing that God can use you to bring light to the world?

Saying yes to hope doesn't mean our lives will be easy. We see from Mary that saying yes can make our lives harder or more complicated. Has there been a time in the past when saying yes to hope led you to experience a challenge or difficulty? How can you trust in the goodness of God's promises even when it leads to hard times?

Hope is born in surrender. Where is God inviting you to lay down your fears and desire for control and to trust in Him and the ways He is speaking to you?

Prayer

Let it be to me, according to your will.