



Sermon Discussion Guide

Hearing God's Voice

Week 1: Mary

Luke 1:26-39, 2:4-6; John 19:25-27 | November 29, 2020

Big Idea

Mary's life shows us how having a heart willing to serve God's plan leads to rejoicing amidst weariness.

Opening Questions

The name of our new sermon series comes from the song *O Holy Night*. What is your favorite Christmas song? Have you started playing Christmas music yet? Or are you a Grinch?

Key Scripture Questions

1. Read **Luke 1:26-38**. This is scene 1, the birth announcement. Mary received news that would forever change her life. Why is it important to say yes in these situations? Has God ever interrupted your life with a mission? If you're willing, share what happened.
2. Read **Luke 2:4-6**. This is scene 2, Jesus' birth. The birth of Jesus happened in an unassuming place but changed the entire course of history. How can God use seemingly insignificant moments to make a big impact? Share a personal experience of this if you have one.
3. Read **John 19:25-27**. This is scene 3, Jesus' death. It is difficult to see the end of something we loved. How can remembering the purpose of something help us deal with the pain of it ending?
4. Read **Luke 22:42**. At the end of Jesus' earthly life, he spoke words similar to those spoken by Mary at the beginning of it. What do you think the significance of this parallel is? In what ways can you start living out these words in your own life as well?
5. We covered three scenes involving Mary. Could any of these scenes be playing out for you personally right now? Has your life been interrupted with a mission (scene 1), are you at the painful start of something new (scene 2), or are you mourning the end of something you love (scene 3)? How can Mary's story help you navigate that?

Concluding Questions

Have you heard God calling you to do something extraordinary, even if it causes you pain or pushes you out of your comfort zone? Has He called you to make a difference in someone's life? What step can you take today to respond to Him as a servant?

Application Questions

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Beyond prayer for each other, is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer Time

"Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending the incredible gift of Your son, Jesus Christ. As we navigate the difficulties of this season, please help us be Your servants as Mary was so that we can rejoice amidst weariness. Amen."