

Unexpected Call:

Unexpected Christmas

Sermon Discussion Guide for the week of Dec 10th, 2017

Primary Scriptures: **Luke 1:26-45**

Relationships

As you begin the study portion of your gathering ask one (or more) of these questions to help your group focus their attention.

What are some of the relational dynamics in your family that you have to navigate this time of year?

What are your expectations for this year's family gathering?

How do you normally react if the holidays do not meet your expectations?

Scripture

Have a volunteer read Luke 1: 26-34

Why do you think Mary wondered at the greeting of the angel?

How do you think Mary felt after getting this news?

What does Mary's response say about her faith?

Mary would have her heart broken as she watched her son die just a few years later, how do you think she felt about this plan?

Have a volunteer read Luke 1: 35-37

What does Gabriel's announcement say about the child Mary will have?

What scriptures or prophecies does this announcement fulfill?

How does the life of Jesus reflect Gabriel's announcement about who he is?

Have a volunteer read Luke 1: 38 and 18-20

What is the difference between Mary's response and Zechariah's response?

Do you think your response would be more like Mary or Zechariah? Why?

Mission

Mary's life was turned completely upside down by this message. How open are you to having your life radically changed by God?

Often we feel like God's plan is for our benefit, would you say that is true of Mary's experience?

Development

How comfortable are you with the thought that you have been chosen by God for a specific plan?

What is the difference between being happy and being fulfilled?

How do you reconcile the thought that God's plan might not lead to your being happy?

Are you willing to sacrifice your plans to fulfill God's purpose for your life?

How can we help one another to truly put God in the first place in our lives?

Pray