The Eyes of Christmas Sermon Series – Part 2
Through the Eyes of Mary
Luke 1:26-47
Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter: Split into ‘mini’ groups within your small group. Ask each person to share his or her first job as a preteen or teenager. Did they feel at all overwhelmed or ill equipped to do what they were asked to do? Mary was a young teenager who is given the ‘task’ of parenting the Savior of the world…talk about overwhelming!!

Read Luke 1:26-47

Discussion points:
1. “Mary’s Reaction” – Reread Luke 1:28-34. Have the members summarize Mary’s reaction in their own words. Highlight Pastor Marks’ observations as they come up. She was TROUBLED; she was AFRAID and she was UNCERTAIN/INCREDULOUS.
2. Ask members who would be comfortable to share a time/circumstance in their life when their reactions included ones Mary experienced.
3. Together repeat the following phrase that Pastor Mark calls “Mary’s Reminder” – “My initial reactions to life’s challenges DOES NOT have to determine my ultimate response.”
4. Read Luke 1:37 in the King James Version. Read Matthew 19:26. Ask your members how faith is key to ensuring that our initial reactions are not necessarily our ultimate responses?
5. “Mary’s Response” - Reread Luke 1:38-47 and read Luke 2:19 & 33. Ask members to select one of the 5 responses of Mary and explain why they can relate. [1. She offered herself as a servant 2. She acted quickly 3. She found a mentor 4. She chose to worship 5. She reflected/pondered]
6. “Mary’s Reality” – ‘a sword will pierce your own soul too….’ Discuss what this wondrous announcement from the angel Gabriel would ultimately mean for Mary.
7. Read Psalm 119:105 and review the 4 Concluding Thoughts. Ask – Given our discussion tonight - “Crystal ball” or “Hand Lamp”? Pray for one another that each member would be content with our ‘daily bread’ and relinquish the desire to have all the information before we choose to obey.

Diving Deeper: Read Philippians 4:4-13. Take some private time to rejoice and thank God for His Word to you. List the things you are thankful for and list what is making you anxious. Has God (by His Spirit) to help you release your grip on those things outside of your control and to enable you to trust Him with whatever He requires of you.