



## Luke 1:26-33

New International Version  
1984 (NIV1984)

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing is impossible with God."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

*Darkness bring fear, ignorance, guilt and hate*

*(Honest affection rather than obligation, rules, retribution, fear)*



# Sermon Notes

## FAITH puts HOPE to WORK

### ✧ Hope comes from **God**

"How will this be?" v34

**Hope is often troubling, exciting, & transforming.**

*"For nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37*

### ✧ Hope is **Joy** with a plan

*Hope is contagious*

*"In his name the nations will put their hope." Matthew 12:21*

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13*

### ✧ Hope will costs you a **Boring Life**

*"Mary answered. 'May it be to me as you have said.'" Luke 1:38*

**Mary was pregnant!**

**Pregnant** – full of meaning or significance



## Sermon Discussion Guide

### *There's an Invitation for You!*

Our reading this week: **Luke 2:8-16**

This passage gives me great hope.

Is it kings, rulers, intellectuals or pop stars that God chooses to announce Jesus' birth?

Oh no, it was the rough and ragged shepherds.

Which gives me great joy in knowing that God announces himself first to us ordinary people (and to kings as it happens) so that we can, if we choose, to be a part of God's plan.

But we do need to go and see and believe. What would have happened if the shepherds had said "oh that was a lovely time of worship, with a beautiful choir of angels, and their message really spoke to me. I wish my family was here, they needed to hear that." And then simply gone back to their sheep and the inevitable sleep that follows?

They would have missed the point of it all, history, purpose and power all culminating in this one moment, God with us. God in action, God in the world, Jesus the hope of the nation and the savior of our souls has arrived, and they would have missed it and life.

If ever we have an experience of God, whether big or small, some quiet revelation, some beautiful outpouring of the Spirit... let's not just go back to what we were doing before, let's go see what Jesus is doing in the world, *let's be part of what He is doing.*

So we too can witness the presence of God, entering his world, just as the shepherds did.

## SCORE Method

Subject: **Understanding Hope**

Central Theme: **Looking for Hope**

Objective Statement:

Hope can inspire us like it did Mary when we know how it arrives.

### **FAITH puts HOPE to WORK**

✧ Hope comes from **God**

✧ Hope is **Joy** with a plan

✧ Hope will cost you a **Boring Life**

### **Evaluation:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is my objective clear?                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Is my <b>Key Word</b> a plural noun? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does it fit my rationale?               | <input type="checkbox"/> Are my rationales parallel?          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does my rationale lead to my objective? |   |

Without God, life has no purpose, and without purpose, life has no meaning. Without meaning, life has no significance or hope... The greatest tragedy is not death, but life without purpose. -- Rick Warren

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.-

Agnes M. Pharo

Other men see only a hopeless end, but the Christian rejoices in an endless hope. ~ Gilbert M. Beeken

The Business Section of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (Dec. 16, 2006) had the headline: "Holiday Stress Worse Than Ever: You Don't Have Time to Read This." Consider some of the statements from that article:

- More than 20 percent of Americans say they're worried the holidays will adversely affect their health.
- Nearly seven in 10 workers said that managing workplace commitments in order to take time off during the holidays is stressful.
- At least 2.5 million working parents are stressed out over after-school care issues.

"The picture of the happy family sitting around a fireplace enjoying eggnog and each other is totally bunk," notes psychologist Ken Siegel.